



## HEADQUARTERS

By Staff Writer Senior Constable Ray Bedford.

On 28 June 1973, a significant event in the history of federal policing in Australia occurred with the opening of Cairns Station. It had a strength of two plainclothes Senior Constables.

The significance of the event was that this was the first deployment of Commonwealth Police outside of mainland capital cities.

Thirteen years later, on Wednesday 12 November 1986, another opening took place in Queensland. Northern Region once again took pride and place in the organisation with its second 'first' for federal policing with the opening of the first dedicated and purpose-built Regional Headquarters.

The building was officially opened by Assistant Commissioner R.J. McCabe, BEM, QPM, before distinguished guests representing the Defence Forces, State and Federal Government Departments, the airlining industry, banking fraternity and the Queensland Police, represented by Assistant Commissioner Parker.

The Regional Commander, Chief Superintendent R.H. Gillespie, QPM, said the building was equipped to improve efforts to combat organised crime, drug trafficking and major fraud against the Government. Accordingly, the facilities for the squads have been greatly expanded.

Built at a cost of \$6 million, the new headquarters is on four levels and is equipped with an armoury, gymnasium and a high security vault for drugs and other exhibits. An elaborate and sophisticated security system monitors all floors and access points at all times, centrally monitored from a vastly improved communications centre equipped with the latest electronic and computer equipment.

The building provides a pleasant air-conditioned working environment, with accent on natural light permeating the working place. The building is spacious and in many areas there is room for future expansion.

A large recreation room and other facilities have been included and an active social club committee is looking after the social needs of its members.

Members can be justly proud of their new headquarters.



• Chief Superintendent Gillespie looks on as Assistant Commissioner McCabe addresses those assembled for the opening of the new Northern Regional Headquarters building.

# Thanks to you!

A column featuring letters of appreciation from members of the public

### Major-General Grey

On the evening of 23 October, I called for Police assistance after disturbing a would-be intruder at my home. Within a few minutes, a Police car which had been in the vicinity arrived, followed shortly afterwards by another which had been assigned the specific task.

I am writing to record my appreciation of the prompt response, and of the courtesy and co-operation which the officers extended to Mrs Monaghan and me. I hope that you may be able to pass this on to the people concerned.

*J.V. Monaghan  
Auditor-General  
Canberra, A.C.T.*

### Commissioner Grey

Two of your officers responded to my call for assistance after I had inadvertently locked myself out of my house. You may like to know how very impressed I was with the prompt, courteous and practical action. Their response to my stupidity was humorous and carried out with goodwill and the necessary agility. I am not sure what more one could expect of one's officers. Unfortunately I omitted to ask their names but if possible I would like my thanks and compliments passed on to them.

*A. Kern  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Health  
Canberra, A.C.T.*

### Dear Commissioner

I am writing to place on record my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by a number of your Police Officers in connection with a bad vehicle accident just after midnight on 2 October in McInnes Street, Weston. In brief, a panel van smashed into the wall of my neighbour's garden, spilling the occupants (4 teenagers), some of whom were injured. I phoned for an ambulance and the Police.

The response by your officers was extremely quick. Two cars and a number of officers arrived within minutes and calmly set about their duties, with care