



## 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



for the injured and concern for all involved. I was impressed by their courtesy, efficiency, competence and calming influence.

I have no idea of the identity of all the officers concerned but felt they deserved commendation for exemplary performance of duty and for setting a standard which makes me proud of our Police force.

*A. Taloni  
Weston, A.C.T.*

**Sir**

My son was involved in a foolish, and I am satisfied one-off, shop stealing incident at Woden Plaza. He was caught and officers from the Woden Station handled the matter.

I am writing to record my appreciation of the courteousness, understanding and what I can best describe as a fine sense of balance displayed by the three officers concerned, Senior Constable Steven Corrigan, First Constable Derek Taws and Sergeant Garry Fulton.

My first knowledge of the incident came when I arrived home to the message that my wife was at the Station. She and the lad arrived home and when I was told that a statement was signed, I could only think of verbalising and all the things that come to the mind of the average person — without foundation and, in the light of my experience, quite incorrectly.

However, I was reassured when my wife could not have spoken more highly of the officers who had brought my son and his friend to the Station. They were considerate and courteous whilst showing the firmness necessary in the circumstances. Later that evening I went to the Station and spoke with Senior Constable Corrigan and some weeks later we both went with my son when he was formally cautioned by Sergeant Fulton.

I decided to write this letter before we knew the outcome, and whilst I hoped that in the circumstances a caution would be given, I was more than satisfied that the approach adopted by the Police had not only earned my respect, but, more importantly, that of my son. They brought home to him not just that what had been done was wrong — he knew this anyway — but what the far-reaching consequences of this type of stupidity can be.

If your officers can do this and earn respect in so doing, they're winning. The community as a whole is fortunate if kids making a wrong step for the first time have the same experience as my son did. The balance was right. Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.

*Name supplied*

**Sir**

On Friday, 15 August, I telephoned the Police to report a dog attack. The officer who took the call was very kind

as I was suffering from shock. Two very polite young officers called at my home and assured me they would look for the dogs. About 7.30 that night, they returned to tell me they had found the dogs and the dog patrol had taken them away.

I neglected to ask from which station your officers had come, or their names. However, through your system, I say thank you sincerely to both of them for a job well done.

*Mrs C.J. Freeman  
Macgregor, A.C.T.*

**Sir**

On Saturday night, 11 October, my son was quite seriously assaulted at the Sternberg Community Centre, Wannassa. As a result he spent the night in Woden Valley Hospital and was absent from work due to extensive head injuries. I wish to praise all the members of your Police force who attended and in particular Constables Turner and Edwards of Tuggeranong Station. I do realise that these two officers were extremely busy that night and I feel that the manner in which they carried out their duties and in which they spoke to me and my family draws nothing but praise for the both of them. To the Australian Federal Police, Sir, we thank you and keep up your good work.

*R.W. Mead  
Queanbeyan, NSW*

**Sir**

On Sunday night, 19 October, about 10.30 pm, I phoned the Police and told the officer-in-charge that my husband and I were worried about a noise in our house which we could not identify. As we are both over 70 years old, we did not feel up to climbing into our roof.

About 10 minutes after my call, two very nice young men from, I think the Emergency Rescue Squad, turned up. One climbed into our roof and the constant humming turned out to be in the cold water tap.

We are most grateful to you for making this service available to us and would like to thank you.

*Ruth Arndt  
Deakin, A.C.T.*

**Chief Inspector D. Bosman (Interpol)**

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the assistance you and your staff gave me in locating my daughter who was out of family contact overseas. The manner in which you conducted your inquiries and the fact that you were keeping me informed of the progress being made most certainly helped me and my family get through one of the most difficult periods in our lives.

*J. Regan  
Maroubra, NSW*

**Sir**

My husband became ill while we were visiting my daughter and son-in-law and never regained consciousness. The ambulance that attended was escorted by Constable Philip Newton and Grant Brodie. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the sensitive, sympathetic and caring manner these two officers displayed. During a time of total confusion and distress for my family, they took control, assisting ambulance officers, and comforting my grandchildren.

Some days later they approached my place of employment to pass on their condolences and inquire into my welfare.

The manner in which these two officers conducted themselves while dealing with members of the public can only return a high regard for the Australian Federal Police on the part of the community.

*M. Angold  
Canberra, A.C.T.*

## RETIRED MEMBERS

**SIR**

My letter really addressed all retired members of the Australian Federal Police Force who reside in the Gold Coast area of Queensland and who may wish to renew old friendships or form new friendships by joining the Gold Coast Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association.

I am the Honorary Secretary of the Gold Coast Branch of the abovementioned Association and will be pleased to hear from former members who can write to me care of the letterhead address.

Our membership on the Gold Coast is almost 80, comprising former members of the Queensland, New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian Police Forces. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at either the RSL Club, Southport, or the Palm Beach-Currumbin Bowls Club. Wives are welcome and we get together for luncheons, bowls and golf trips, visits to race meetings and we are ever-ready to assist each other in times of sickness or tragedy.

Perhaps publication of this information in your journal will reach many former members of the AFP.

*Syd Atkinson  
29 Cadence Avenue  
Mermaid Waters  
Queensland 4218*