

Detective Sergeant Steve Prothero

were being turned into morphine. What dismays Steve is that many ACT junkies come from good families.

Steve is a family man, and his wife Marilyn finds looking after their four children a full-time job. They leave Steve with little spare time, too. He works up to 60 hours a week, so he has no time for many other activities.

That doesn't seem to worry Steve Prothero. His career is with the AFP, he says.

Sometimes he has the urge to get ink on his fingers again, but he does like community policing, he says. A police sergeant at 29! Lucky Community!

Resources

'Forestry is about resource management. Running a police force is a matter of managing resources'.

When someone asks Sergeant Frank Atkinson why a B.Sc. in Forestry is in the police force, that's the kind of answer you can expect.

But in today's AFP, with the range of skills being demanded of our investigators, fewer people ask that question.

Frank joined the AFP in January 1981, did the usual courses, and spent about 18 months in the ACT on general duties. He relieved in CIB for a while, and then went to Operations Response Division.

Since 1986, Frank has been at Barton College, administering. Now he lectures in those subjects vital to keeping the organisation ticking over, whether they be logistics, planning or administration.

Among the subjects Frank did at ANU Forestry School, he enjoyed computer science, which he now finds extremely valuable. Valuable, too, was the university experience.

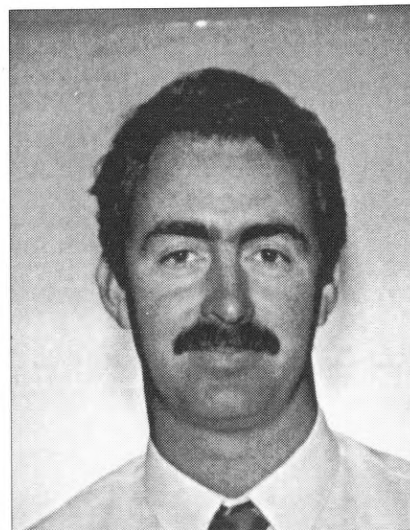
'It teaches you how to think, where to go for the information when you need it, and classroom techniques,' said Frank. 'Many exercises at the AFP College are based on the same principles as those used at Uni.'

Frank went straight to ANU from school. He has had some time in private industry.

'I did survey work for a woodchipper in Tasmania,' he said. 'I told them what they were doing wrong. We parted company.'

Frank agrees that the AFP is a worthwhile career for a graduate to look at. He sees the AFP as still building up; any intelligent, ambitious person would be stimulated by the changes taking place.

'The day the AFP stops using me to the fullest, that's when I start looking for something else,' he said.



Sergeant Frank Atkinson

Frank does not have as much time for his hobby, fishing, as he would like to have these days. He and his wife, Karen, have two children, the youngest 11 months old.

Karen was formerly with CIB, so there's two kids with blue in their blood!

According to Inspector Eddie Richards, who recruited the three new sergeants, these are the first of the 'new' AFP people to make sergeant. Inspector Richards says he is proud of that.

Listening to him, one feels that he wouldn't mind terribly if they were promoted above him fairly soon.

Most AFP recruits now have considerable work experience before they sign on, and many have impressive qualifications. It is believed that few police forces offer such rapid promotion to talented people.

O'Connor's expertise, diligence and co-operation, this matter was successfully concluded in a timely manner.

SA Vesely has also brought to my attention the assistance provided by Senior Sergeant Rex Bartoli and Detective Senior Sergeant Dove in relaying information to her once Constable O'Connor went on vacation. SA Vesely also received much-needed assistance from Detective Chief Inspector Dick Downing at the Australian Consulate in Los Angeles. Inspector Downing expedited the forwarding of the fingerprints and investigate reports from Sydney, Australia to SA Vesely, and provided crucial information as to the whereabouts of other individuals in Sydney and their plans for returning to the United States.

We sincerely appreciate the co-operative spirit displayed by each of these individuals, and I want to make sure their efforts did not go unrecognised.

If an opportunity should arise in which my staff can be of assistance to the Australian Federal Police, please do not hesitate to call on us.'

Platypus 18, September 1987

Ministerial Reshuffle

THE Prime Minister's extensive reshuffle in July of Departments and Ministerial portfolios has left the AFP under ministerial arrangements not greatly changed from those which existed previously.

In the streamlining of Government administration, however, the Police function moved from the Department of the Special Minister of State. The AFP now is included in the Attorney-General's portfolio, but still retains its existing statutory functions and relationships.

Under the new ministerial arrangements, a number of junior Ministers have been appointed to assist Cabinet Ministers and are authorised to act for and on behalf of these Ministers.

Senator Michael Tate, who was previously Minister responsible for the AFP, has been authorised to act for and on behalf of the Attorney-General, Mr Bowen.

His functions cover Police and Police Liaison, including appropriate Common-

wealth and State Committees, as well as Bankruptcy, Legal Aid, Protective Services, Prisoners and Remand, Statute Law and Criminology.

Before Senator Tate can be appointed as Minister under the new arrangements, however, the Ministers of State Act 1952 needs to be amended. This is expected to be debated during the new session of Parliament.

Meanwhile, he has been given the temporary title Parliamentary Secretary for Justice.

The Attorney-General retains general oversight of the portfolio and in particular matters involving subject areas identified for his personal attention. One of these matters is personally overseeing the response to be made to the Review of Systems for Dealing with Fraud on the Commonwealth.

While Senator Tate will have responsibility for legal aid and financial assistance matters and be heavily involved in the negotiations with the States on new agreements, Mr Bowen will retain general oversight of the negotiations.