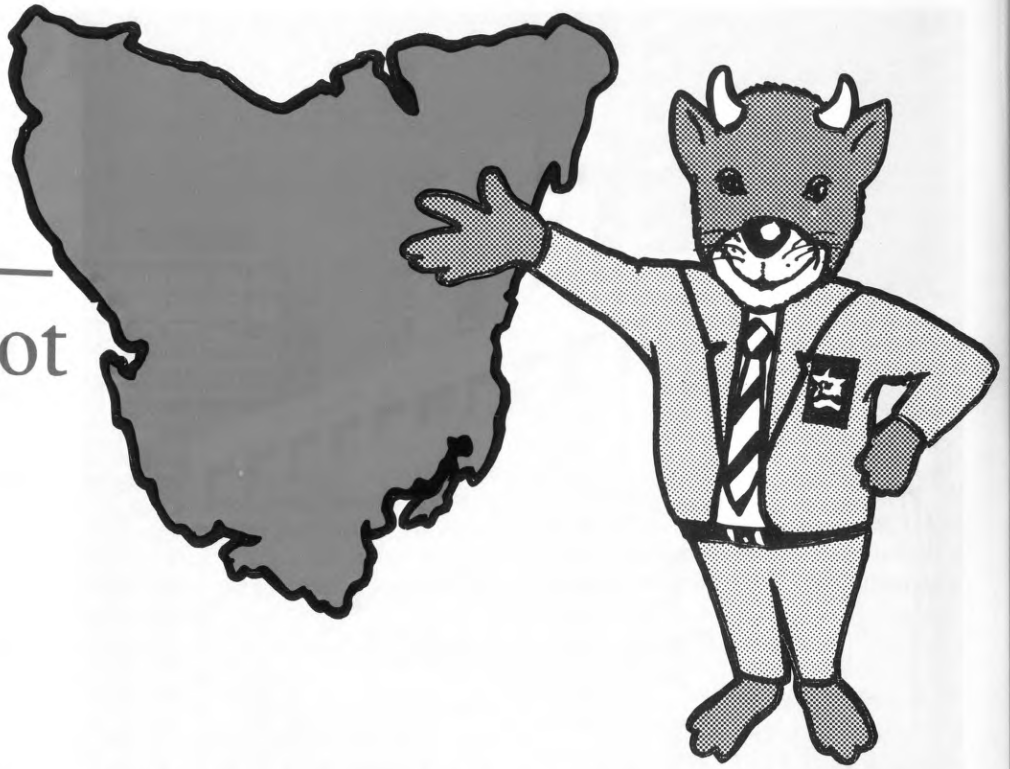


Tasmania— a quiet spot for some



Another in our series on the Regions. Tasmania's appeal has increased considerably over the past few years, despite front page news on environment issues which have made world headlines.

CLEAR mountain streams and lakes, beautiful mountains, valleys of rain forests, magnificent ocean views and a pace of life which allows you to relax and be more peaceful. That's how the travel brochures describe Tasmania.

For the AFP, Tasmania is the smallest of all the Regions. But that doesn't mean it is the quietest.

Many people have made it their home after arriving initially for only a short stay or holiday, attracted by the excellent ocean, river and the lake fishing, scenic bushwalks, rich pasture lands, extensive orcharding, fine examples of colonial sandstone buildings, quality restaurants and a friendly people with whom to share these attractions. Boating is very popular on the extensive waterways such as the Derwent and Huon Rivers. Many people bushwalk and camping is popular throughout the island.

The AFP

The AFP in Tasmania has 24 police and five public servants manning three stations from which criminal and other inquiries are made throughout the island. The division of work covers airport security at Hobart Airport, Family Law Court security at Hobart and Launceston, drug investigations, regional intelligence gathering and analysis and fraud and general crime investigations.

Launceston Station

In Launceston, a Detective Sergeant, three Constables (two in plainclothes) and a public servant are stationed. They

work from the historic Customs House, built in 1886-87 and how declared a National Trust building as an excellent example of early colonial building in Tasmania. Customs still operate from there as well.

Apart from the family security role, members at Launceston conduct numerous inquiries into fraud, bankruptcy and other crimes against the Commonwealth. Recent initiatives have led to several intelligence probes into drugs and organised crime.

Hobart Airport

Uniform staff at Hobart station consists of a Senior Sergeant and nine Constables. Their prime function is airport and Family Law Court security. However, uniform members also con-

duct minor crime inquiries and sometimes join plainclothes investigators in dealing with more major matters.

A number of members now engaged full time in areas of plainclothes investigation began service in Tasmania at Hobart Airport. The Drug Unit/Regional Intelligence Unit, which is staffed by a Detective Sergeant and two Constables, is based at this station. The building is extremely secure, is near the airport, and allows quick and easy access to all flights. The presence of these members with the uniform airport staff facilitates close liaison and co-operation.

Regional Headquarters

The Tasmania Regional Headquarters, located in Liverpool Street, Hobart, houses the Regional Commander, an



Inspector, the Station Sergeant and four public servants. The Fraud and General Crime Branch, which is staffed by a Detective Sergeant and four Constables, also operates from the building.

The CIB members are extensively involved in the investigation of fraud against the Commonwealth, particularly in the areas of social security and health insurance. However, a variety of other inquiries are conducted including bankruptcy, larceny of or damage to Commonwealth property, intelligence gathering, surveillance operations and Family Law Court matters.

Many inquiries concern quite large losses of money to the Commonwealth and require very involved and protracted investigations to bring offenders to justice.

Work and liaison

Members who have transferred to Tasmania have found that it is not a Region in which very little happens, as many mainlanders suppose. There is a constant flow of demanding work to be done and some members have even expressed the view that the work is much more interesting than they had expected.

The AFP in Tasmania has developed and maintained an excellent relationship with the Tasmania Police. This is clearly



Tasmania Regional Headquarters

of mutual benefit, but more particularly to the AFP as the work carried out throughout Tasmania often requires members to rely on Taspol support when dealing with criminal investigations in remote areas.

Even when the local newspapers were speculating about an impending confrontation between the AFP and the

Tasmania Police over the logging issue, the good relationship and co-operation between the respective forces continued.

The AFP and the OAFP members in Tasmania work extremely well together and share a willingness to co-operate in a variety of ways.

In such a small Region it is vital there is a good team spirit.

Timber with a touch of Class



THE quality and the uniqueness of Tasmanian timbers make woodwork an appealing hobby. Two of the timbers keenly sought for furniture and other woodwork are Huon Pine and Blackwood. Constable Martin Rosenberg, who is attached as an investigator to the Fraud and General Crime Branch in Hobart, is particularly interested in both timbers. He is a keen woodwork hobbyist, an interest he has held for several years.

Martin says he is largely self taught, although his current neighbour, who is a joiner, gives some assistance and advice from time to time.

Since his transfer to Tasmania in 1986, he has discovered particularly the beauty of Blackwood. He says it is an excellent timber because of its rich colour, beautiful grain and the ease with which it can be worked.

Blackwood is the largest and most important of the wattle trees. It may grow to 25 metres and up to 1 metre in diameter. While it is found in the southern and south-eastern areas of the mainland, it is widespread throughout Tasmania, particularly in the swamp soils of the North-West.

Martin says he likes to work Blackwood timber because it is hard, close-grained and strong. The heartwood is golden to dark brown with a white coloured sapwood. It is used to make top quality furniture, panelling and other cabinet work.

Blackwood furniture has a rich warm golden brown colour, plus a beautiful grain and is highly prized by the wood craftsmen of Tasmania.

Huon Pine also is a favourite of Martin's. It grows naturally in Tasmania, but nowhere else in Australia. In its natural state, it grows to 30 metres high, although some trees reach 40 metres. It grows along the river banks and in the wetter patches of the West and South-West of Tasmania. It is extremely slow growing — about 120mm diameter per century.

From the early 1800s Huon Pine has been highly prized as a timber. The early convict settlement at Satah Island in Macquarie Harbour was established to harvest Huon Pine from along the Gordon River. Being one of the few native timbers which float when green, the logs were cut, taken to the river, branded and then floated downstream to a log boom