

THE SAFE WAY

A former member of the AFP search and rescue squad in Canberra, Senior Constable Greg Lovell, is now promoting occupational health and safety in the force.

Greg, who is part of the Industrial Relations Division, said the amount of help available for post-trauma counselling and stress was expected to be expanded.

'This is the recommendation of the AFP psychologist, medical officers and welfare officers'.

Greg said it was his work in rescue that first showed him the need to help get people through stressful situations.

'Attending crises such as road and industrial accidents made me decide to concentrate on occupational health and safety and the palliative aspects of that work.'

'I undertook a diploma course in the field with the National Safety Council of Australia.'

Drug vaults were a subject studied recently. The Australian Government analyst who has been involved in examining AFP Drug Vaults found they contained bacteria.

'As a result part of the recommendation has gone out that all drugs be sealed in heat sealing bags, rather than the pressure sealed bags used in the past,' Greg said.

'It's apparent that they were not as effective as need be.'

'Chemists say that without secure healing of the drugs in the vaults, bacteria can be given off which can cause a chronic allergic reaction'.

Greg also said the amount of help available for post-trauma counselling and stress was expected to be expanded.

'This is the recommendation of the AFP psychologist, medical officers and welfare officers'.

He said that an occupational health and safety committee was soon to be established as a sub-committee of the National Consultative Council. This committee will include representatives of the Industrial Relations Division, other AFP management areas, medical services and unions.

Occupational health and safety is seen as an area requiring full co-operation and consultation between management and unions.

'It's very important that health and safety information can be publicised throughout the AFP,' he said.



Senior Constable Greg Lovell

NEW BLOOD FOR INFORMATION OFFICE

THIS issue of *'Platypus'* is the first for our new publisher, Mr Paul Lewer.

Mr Lewer comes to us after more than two decades in the daily media — including newspapers, radio and television, much of it in senior positions with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

He has had a close association with the AFP for several years and built up a Federal Police round for the ABC.

In 1984 he won the top prize in Australian journalism, the Walkley Award, for an international exclusive on the arrest of alleged crime boss, Robert Trimbole, in Ireland.

'I'm pleased to be associated with a magazine as professionally produced as *'Platypus'*, he said.

'There's an excellent team here in the information office and we'll be looking to maintain that high standard and perhaps even expand on it.'

'We're also looking at upgrading the AFP's other publications.'

'Another new recruit is Ms Stella Klein who joins Mr Terry Browne on the graphic design staff.'

'Ms Klein, who's originally from Canberra, has varied experience in her field and is looking forward to making a contribution to AFP publications.'

'We're always on the look-out for story ideas and contributions from members of the force', Mr Lewer said. He can be contacted in Canberra on 757101.



Mr Paul Lewer



Ms Stella Klein