

of course if they have to travel away they often spend time caring for the child. They both agree the challenge of the work is tremendous; they have to be calm, patient, diplomatic, defuse anxiety and show all the wisdom of Solomon in handling the very sensitive work of children in marriage break-ups. On one point they totally agree, it's fascinating work where every day is totally different.

Senior Constable Blay tells in his own words the recent case of Nicole Need.

FAMILY LAW MATTER OF NEED

In March 1982 David John Need started living in a de facto relationship with Lee McQuire at her residence situated in Endeavour Hills, Victoria. Soon after the relationship had started Lee fell pregnant. On 7 January 1983 Nicole Dianne Need was born. On 1 June 1984 David and Lee were married. Eleven days later David fled the Endeavour Hills home with 17-month-old Nicole. Lee Need was not to see her daughter for over two and a half years.

She applied to the Dandenong Family Law Court for a Warrant to take possession of the child. In October 1984 after months of litigation, the Family Court Judge issued a Custody Warrant which ordered that on the child being located the Australian Federal Police deliver her to the paternal grandparents of the child, Mr and Mrs Phillip Need, David's parents.

Our longest enquiry on a Family Law Warrant then began. After fruitless investigation in ascertaining the father and

daughter's whereabouts, Mrs Lee Need applied to the Dandenong Family Law Court for an order for a possible media coverage. The order was made subsequently and the media ban lifted.

In late October 1984, Willessee TV program 'Day by Day' ran the story. Information received led the AFP to the Castlemaine area in Victoria. David Need was interviewed in relation to his daughter's whereabouts but failed to disclose any information. As the Court had not issued an Apprehension Warrant for David Need, the AFP officers left. Several hours later the Family Law Court issued a Warrant for Need's arrest. AFP officers returned to Castlemaine but Mr Need consequently departed the area.

Enquiries were conducted with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department as Mr Need was a licensed wildlife dealer.

Mr Need's relatives and friends were questioned on numerous occasions about his whereabouts, however they all said they did not know where he was. The same story: blood is thicker than water.

Our investigation led us to all parts of Victoria. Enquiries revealed that in late November 1984 Mr Need's de facto wife had joined him and taken over the role as Nicole's mother.

Some two and a half years later, after continuous and rather fruitless inquiries, Mrs Lee Need obtained an order from the Family Law Court for further media coverage. This was granted.

On the 18 February 1987 the Willessee Television Programme ran the story of the case. Reporter Miss Debbie Burnes interviewed Senior Constable Graham Blay. He asked viewers to consider the view that it was their public duty to notify the Australian Federal Police in

Melbourne of David and Nicole's whereabouts.

The program went to air at 6.30 pm. At about 6.40 pm Senior Constable Blay received a number of phone calls from members of the public. One was from a man who said he used to work with David Need some two years ago in a furniture store in the Newcastle area. The caller also mentioned that Need was going under the name of Lest. For the next eighteen hours or so Senior Constable Blay conducted the relevant enquiries and ascertained David and Nicole's whereabouts.

On Thursday 19 February 1987 Senior Constable Blay and First Constable Susan Anderson travelled to Newcastle and upon arrival were met by Federal Police. We then travelled to an address in Pelaw Main a suburb out of Newcastle where David and Nicole were found. Mr Need was arrested and taken to the Newcastle Police Station. Nicole was taken into AFP custody.

The following day both Mr Need and Nicole were flown back to Melbourne and appeared before Mr Justice Walsh of the Dandenong Family Law Court. Mr Need was released from custody and placed on Recognizance and a surety of \$10,000 and certain conditions were entered upon the recognizance.

After two and a half years of search and heartbreak Nicole and her mother were finally re-united. It was a very emotional scene for all parties concerned.

The custody case for Nicole is set down to be heard on the 24 April 1987 at the Melbourne Family Law Court. David Need is to face the same Court to answer to the charge of Contempt of Court.



SLEUTHS GET NEW HEAD

Assistant Commissioner Peter Lamb has taken over as head of the AFP's Investigations Department. He joined the Commonwealth Police in 1961 and has served in Sydney, Cyprus, Papua New Guinea and the United States of America. He takes over from Assistant Commissioner Brian Bates who will now head Personnel and Training.

Photo by Richard Briggs of The Canberra Times.



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