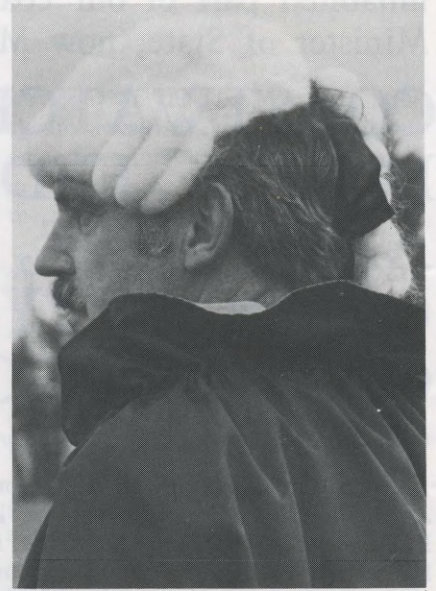


# NATIONAL EVENTS AND



One of the more colourful boats in the regatta. Just visible in the bow section is Kerry Martin, daughter of AFPs Sergeant Keith Martin.



The eagle eye of Judge — oops — Chief Superintendent Alan Bird sees that all is fair in the boat race.

On the Mediterranean island of Cyprus a 'green line' marks a buffer zone between Greek and Turkish factions. Members of the AFP patrol sections of this zone, and perform humanitarian tasks such as the escort of pension and medical payments and the delivery of food.

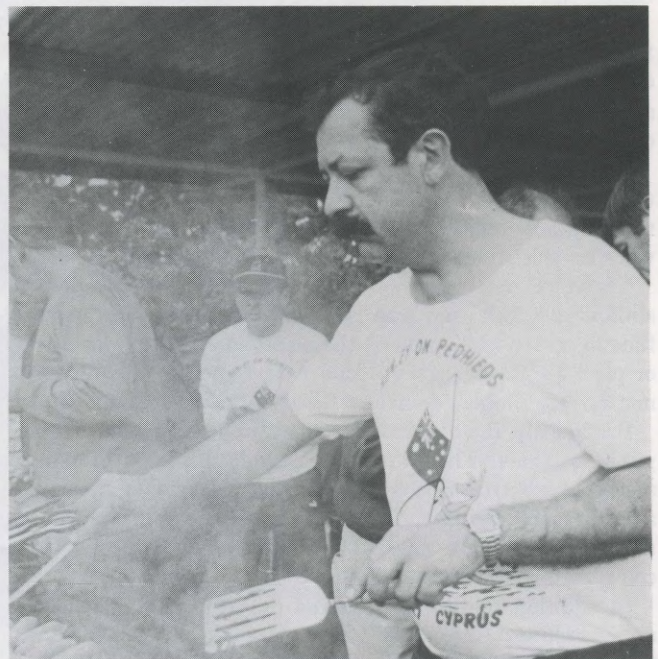
The island has year-round fine weather — and year-round tension. Our people have little time off, however, to enjoy the weather and the beaches. Like most Australians, the members of UNFICYP, the Australian contingent in Cyprus since 1964, work pretty hard at their recreation when they get it. Here, Inspector Bill Kirk tells us how the blue-bereted brigade spent Australia Day 1987.

A few traditions have emerged since the formation of the Australian Federal Police just a few years ago, but a rather different tradition has emerged in Cyprus on Australia Day. There doesn't seem to be much said about Captain Phillip or the first fleet, although we often hear mutterings about convicts for some reason.

Sergeant Phil Spence won the football kicking competition — and the job of master of ceremonies.



Senior Sergeant Peter De-Britt attends to the tucker.



# CAPITAL PERFORMANCES

The highlight of the day's activities is the annual Henley on Pedhieos Regatta. It is our waterless boat race, novelty events and picnic day. Strict rules apply to the boats' construction and the judges are kept busy — mostly changing rules in true Americas Cup tradition trying to ensure an Aussie victory. Prestige is important amongst those countries making up the United Nations Force in Cyprus and each contingent applies the rules in its own special way when mounting their challenge. Will the Vikings (Danes) be beaten by those Swedes? How could the Canadian Airborne comprehend being beaten by the British Fusiliers?

Twenty boats, uhh craft, uhh vessels, whatever, were entered. Some were made by craftsmen whilst others were held together with glue, string and concentration. Each boat was allowed five crew members plus a gunner who could discharge flour and water at the opposition whilst endeavouring to negotiate a difficult course made worse by the harassment of biased spectators. The Australian entry, Kanga-bloody-roo I, by somehow receiving a series of lay-days, was assured of a place straight into the finals thus allowing their boat and crew to be in top condition.

Incredibly, even with our designer keel, on-the-spot rule amendments, a special system of point scoring and our own judges (the best that money could buy) we managed only third place! The more fancied fighting crews, perhaps overawed by the occasion or probably too preoccupied with their gunnery, were beaten by a team of kitchen staff from the Officers' Mess who steamed full ahead to the finish. There is absolutely no truth to the rumour that the designers of Kanga-bloody-roo were keel-hauled. It was only done to the crew.

Meanwhile fifteen hundred servings of food and adequate quantities of liquid refreshments were served to contestants, spectators and families by the Australian Contingent and wives, all hands on deck as it were, and in spite of uncharacteristically rotten weather everyone had a great day.

The hero of the day turned out to be Phil Spence who saved our reputations by winning the Football Kicking Competition in great style. Modest mention should be made of the gold medal won by one of our ladies who was in the winning team for the tug-of-war. Presentations to the winners were made by Mr David Wadham, the Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus. ●



*A Bird without a boat in Cyprus, a Frog out of his depth in Canberra? Judge Sergeant 'Bullfrog' Mackey, well known to students at AFP College Barton, assisted by the 'jury' Tanya Matherson, adjudicated the Annual Birdman Rally in Canberra on Canberra Day.*



*At the Birdman Rally the ACT Diving Squad provided instant recovery services for the competitors. Pictures by Vladimir Stojanovic.*