

UNIFORMS TO GO!



• Pictured here are First Constable Gillian Albiez (left) in the old uniform, and Senior Constable Joanne Prince, wearing the new issue summer uniform. — Photo by Stephen Dau.

WHEN P.W. Reiners of Canberra, contract tailors for the AFP, were given the brief to design new uniforms for our women members, the key word was 'practicality'.

The result, modified by the Australian Government clothing factory, is a uniform which will give women police more freedom of movement and more mobility.

Samples of the proposed uniform were made up and the design was circulated to all regions. Officers generally approved the change, and the new gear is now being issued.

The shirt now gives women more freedom in their arms. As one wearer said, 'Car driving is now much easier'. The shirt fabric is the same as the men's.

Careful consideration was given to the design of the culottes. The hip pocket takes the standard notebook and cover, and a convenient pen pocket is provided. It is now possible for women to wear the standard utility belt to accommodate handcuffs, pistol, and whatever else a police officer needs to carry.

The culottes are the same fabric as the men's trousers, in both summer and winter weights.

The hat is now black, with a black-and-white chequer band, consistent with the men's headgear.

Work is now proceeding on the women's winter tunic. We can expect to see the first in March.

The new uniform will be standard throughout the AFP.

TOP POLICEMAN HAS VARIED CAREER

by Philip Castle

ASSISTANT Commissioner Allan Watt, 59, retired late last year as the head of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. His police career spanned 17 years with the NSW Police Force and then 20 years with the Commonwealth and Australian Federal Police Forces.

He was born in Sydney and educated at Canterbury High School. Policing was not his first career. Before he joined the NSW Police Force in 1949 he worked with an antique auction firm.

Up to 1966 he worked in general duties in the Sydney metropolitan region, prosecutions, and then as the chief clerk to the Metropolitan Superintendent's office as an acting sergeant.

In 1966 he joined the Commonwealth Police Force as a First Class Inspector and was in charge of its Sydney plain clothes branch.

Almost immediately he worked on the first major case of Australians being drug traffickers, some of whom were extradited from the US.

He became the senior officer in charge of the NSW Region in 1969 as a First Class Superintendent where he worked until 1974.

When Cyclone Tracey hit Darwin on Christmas Day in 1974 he was sent with the interstate police group as its Senior Operational Officer. He then came to Canberra in January 1975 as Assistant Commissioner, National Operations; later as Assistant Commissioner, Personnel and Services, then very briefly to Investigations.

In 1984 he took over Training. Then as the first head of the Coastal Protection Unit he helped set it up. In June 1985 he became the Director of the ABCI from where he retired.

He was awarded the Lieutenant of the Victorian Order in 1977 for his work as a personal escort to the Royal Family over a number of tours, the Queen's Police Medal in 1975 for distinguished service, and he is an Officer Brother of the Order of St. John.

It is with the St. Johns Council of the ACT that he has put much of his outside work time and is its present chairman. He is active in Lions and in other charity work.

He and his wife Fay will stay in Canberra and take more time out to enjoy some golf, their two daughters and their three grandchildren.