

TO THE RESCUE

WHEN the motorcycle outfit of a paraplegic amateur photographer slipped into Lake Burley Griffin at Regatta Point on March 17 during the Bi-centennial festivities, the combined might of the AFP came to her rescue.

The water police and the search and rescue squad were quickly on the scene and lifted Miss Margaret Hemphill of Sydney to safety before plucking her outfit from the murky waters of the lake.

While Miss Hemphill was being treated in Royal Canberra Hospital for wrist injuries, AFP staff at Weston put her machine back in working order.

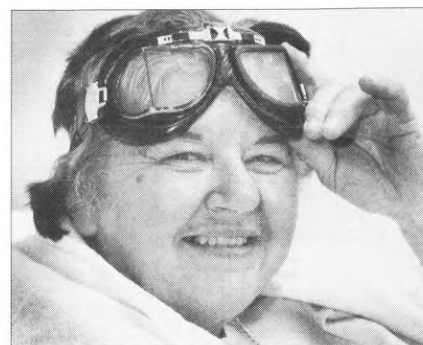
AFP radio technician, Glen James (left) checked that her CB radio had not been affected by water. Motor cycle mechanic 'Taffy' Williams repaired the

outfit's twisted front forks and drained the machine's internals of a few litres of Lake Burley Griffin before refilling with oil.

A big job? "No, I knocked it over in my lunch hour," Taffy said.

At the time of going to press, Miss Hemphill was waiting for her wounds to heal before once again living up to her nick-name: the 'Goggle-Eyed Gran'.

She has already travelled nearly 37,000 kilometres on her US-built automatic machine which she bought in 1983.



"Goggle-Eyed Granny" Hemphill

(pictures by Richard Briggs, Canberra Times)

New Radar

THE AFP in Canberra has a new weapon in its war against speeding motorists.

It is a much more accurate form of radar called Slant Radar.

The Australian-designed system is much more selective when checking the speed of cars travelling near each other.

'It is simple to operate and calculates the speed of a vehicle and provides it on a print-out,' Superintendent Bob Prigg (Commander Traffic Branch) said.

'It is superior in that the other systems require a degree of calculation by officers.'

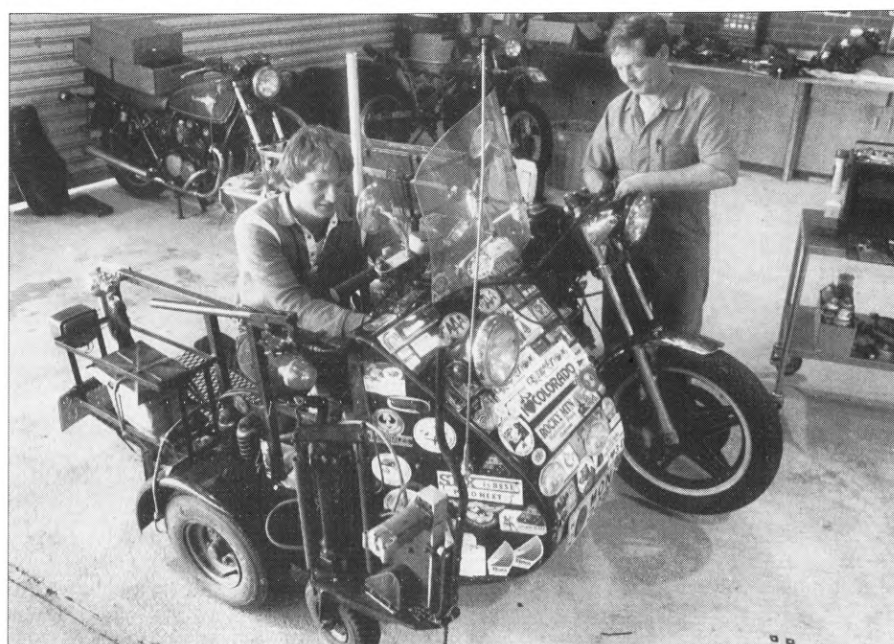
And Superintendent Prigg has no doubts about its effectiveness: 'On the first four evenings we used it 131 cars were found to be travelling above the speed limit,' he said.

Slant radar is also used by Australian state police forces. The Traffic Branch has one slant radar unit so far to supplement its Kustom KR 11's and 10's and has made application for another.

Superintendent Prigg said that the slant radar units cost \$10,600 and the unit in use had proved the worth of the system.

The AFP's radar equipment is serviced by the New South Wales Police in Sydney.

'We greatly appreciate the co-operation of the New South Wales Police,' Superintendent Prigg said.



Glen James and Taffy Williams at work.



Sen. Const. Ross Hancock operates the new radar. (Picture by Ron Townsend)