

BIKER IS A HIGH FLYER

ACT Traffic Branch biker Constable Mark Davey has his feet on the pedals and head in the clouds.

Mark has recently obtained his commercial pilot's licence after much time and effort. He began flying in 1979 after gaining a student pilot licence which allows a flyer to solo after 10 flying hours. After 30 hours he qualified for a restricted licence.

"The restricted licence is called the turns and bumps licence. You basically fly circuits around the airfield and practice landing planes," Mark admitted modestly.

He then spent time swotting up for six subjects and exams before getting his commercial pilot's licence in November 1988. He had flown at least 150 hours in command of an aircraft by then.

Mark is now working towards gaining a Command Instrument Rating (CIR) which will allow him to use radio navigational aids and fly without visual reference to the ground. In other words, he'll be qualified for night and all-weather flights.

The achievement represents a considerable investment in time and money for Mark. At current rates, lessons for a private pilot's licence in



Mark Davey, (right) prepares for a flight with a fellow pilot.

single-engine aircraft cost \$110 an hour. Lessons for the CIR cost \$185 an hour. You need 500 hours of total flight experience before gaining a CIR.

As well, Mark bought a quarter share in a \$12,000 ultralight airplane several years ago, an investment lost when a strong wind gust lifted the craft to the ceiling of the hangar and down again despite the fact it was tied down!

Mark, from Merimbula NSW, was selling and servicing office equipment before joining the AFP in 1985. After 18 months in Sydney, he did general duties at Canberra City Station, followed by embassy guarding, a period in the Criminal Brief Unit and

in August 1988 joined the ACT Traffic Branch.

"Traffic is interesting. Everyday is different, and the work never stops," he said.

Asked about his future, Mark expressed a hope that the AFP just might acquire a helicopter for rescue work in and around the ACT in the future.

"It would be easy for me to do the rotary wing conversion course to enable me to fly choppers," he said. "Maybe I could be useful in airlift rescues and medical dashes."

Whatever the future holds, the sky is definitely the limit for Mark Davey.

BRENTON AIMS AT TOP TEN

The AFP's Australian-ranked ten-pin bowler, Brenton Davy, of Central Region, is facing the Perth and Melbourne Bowling Cup tournaments in June with plenty of confidence.

Brenton was ranked 19th in Australia in men's bowling last year by Pin Action magazine.

"This year I'm aiming to make the top ten," he said. "I made the final of the Australian Open in Melbourne at Easter this year and finished in twentieth place, though the field was the strongest I'd faced. I hope to do better in Perth and Melbourne."

The 29-year-old, 193 cm tall constable skittled everyone at Adelaide's suburban Cross Road Bowl one Thursday night in February when he sent down 22 strikes in a row in a three game mixed doubles match, scoring

802 out of a possible 900. He bowled 10 strikes in a row in his second game and a perfect 12 strikes in his final game.

This gave him two outstanding bowling records in one hit. Firstly, he bowled a perfect 300 game, throwing down 12 strikes in a row. This is akin in golfing terms to hitting a hole-in-one. In fact, Brenton's perfect game was only the 18th 300 score bowled in South Australia since the sport began there 30 years ago.

Secondly, and an even more rare feat, he became only the eighth bowler in the whole of Australia to score over 800 in a three-game match.

Brenton shrugs off suggestions that bowling is a "lounge lizard" pastime.

"You need to be very fit to bowl at the highest levels," he said. "In competition, I might bowl 25 games

in one day over a seven hour period. That's the equivalent of walking about four kilometers while carrying a 16 pounds weight (bowling hasn't gone metric because the sport has its headquarters in the USA). That's the equivalent of carrying an accumulated weight of a couple of tonnes."

"By far the hardest task is keeping up your mental concentration. You have to block out all outside distractions and concentrate on your own game, which isn't easy when a few hundred people are staring at you in a tournament and shouting and cheering continuously."

This year has been profitable so far for Brenton. He has won \$4000 in prizemoney (to April) for an outlay of \$ 2000 (travel costs), putting him in the black for the first time in a long while.