

# Eastern Region Special Feature

By Assistant Commissioner Phil Baer

THERE is much that is special about Eastern Region, but that is not to say that the same cannot be said about other Regions. I believe that it would be most presumptuous and unwise of any Regional Officer-in-Charge to claim that his Region did anything better than another, but I do claim that, leaving aside community policing, Eastern Region does more of the range of Regional activities than any other Region.

This feature amply records the scope and scale of activities in Eastern Region.

Turning to what is special in Eastern Region, I nominate its personnel, both staff and police members. Over the past year or so the dedication and loyalty of our staff members has been demonstrated time and again, where against a backdrop of falling numbers and recruitment embargoes they have risen to and met every challenge. Their performance, from the often solitary staff member in the registry through all areas to the Regional Executive, has been just short of incredible. To steal some words, "I dips me lid to each and every one of them". I am informed that, without exception, during the recent visit by the Resources Review Team, only the highest praise was accorded our staff members.

Our police members also are special. The fall in staff member numbers has dictated changes in the way that they have had to perform their work. Long gone are the days of keyboard and similar support personnel. This support vanished at the same time that keyboard intensive systems such as COPS arrived, thereby exacerbating or accentuating the loss. Members, and to a lesser degree staff members, have had to change their work practices and come to grips with 'techno shock' as modern technology was introduced, together with training, to bridge the gap caused by the loss of this support. All members of all ages

and ranks have responded and risen to the challenge to the extent that not only has the gap been bridged but, I would argue, enhanced productivity has been achieved. Again, "I dips me lid" to all police members and, in particular, to the nameless Detective Commander who was convinced that all computers hated him, but who can now make a COPS entry, or send a cc: Mail message, along with the best of them.

While there are many other things special about Eastern Region such as the practical application of technology; drug substitution processes; criminal assets investigation successes; the environment peculiar to Sydney; our accommodation and many other things, none is as special, or as valued, as our personnel.



Deputy Commissioner Phil Baer surveying Sydney's skyline from the top of Eastern Region HQ.

Eastern Region Headquarters

