

# Top training down south

THE Undergraduate Program, now in its second full year of operation, is a creative approach to recruiting new members to the AFP who are academically sound.

Detective Sergeant Alan Scott has been appointed co-ordinator of the scheme.

He lectures full-time at Monash University and Phillip Institute. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Legal Studies) from LaTrobe University and is currently studying law at Melbourne University.

In Victoria, the undergraduate program involves a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (formerly Phillip Institute) or a Bachelor of Arts degree in Police Studies at Monash University.

The program provides a unique opportunity for students to undertake a full-time degree course while having the support of a possible future employer.

The AFP provides a student mentor to both campuses. As a mentor, Detective Sergeant Scott is responsible for delivering lectures and tutorials in relevant subject areas as well as acting as an interface between individual students and the AFP.

"It is also beneficial for the AFP to have a representative on the staff at the universities, which provides us with the opportunity to have our views presented in an academic setting. This enables broader academic considerations to be tempered by the often difficult position which faces law enforcement in Australia," Detective Sergeant Scott said.

All students participating in the Undergraduate Program have been selected by AFP's recruiting agents, Burson-Marsteller, and have passed the standard selection criteria used for police officers.

The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, which all students are required to sign, provides that



Student mentor, Detective Sergeant Alan Scott, third from left with undergraduates who were among those attending a recent information seminar at Southern Region Headquarters: (l to r) Kelly Ross, Ashley Mitchell, and Brad Smith.

upon the satisfactory completion of the degree, students are eligible for first priority of employment with the AFP.

Students are free at any time to withdraw from the program if they decide that they do not wish to pursue a career with the AFP.

Students participating in the Undergraduate Program are invited to regular information seminars held at Regional Headquarters in Melbourne. These seminars aim to provide students with a clearer understanding of the functions of the AFP and expose them to some of the AFP's operational duties.

The seminars also enable existing AFP members to meet the undergraduate students in an informal setting and to learn more about their studies and their aspirations to join the AFP.

It is anticipated that the first of the students emerging from the fully implemented Undergraduate Program will be invited into the ranks of the AFP from about mid-1993 onwards.

## Regional training

In addition to those members who will flow to the AFP from the Undergraduate Program, Southern Region has been a successful training ground for new recruits of basic training in Canberra.

Members undergo a 'Local Procedures Course' in addition to their

basic training to familiarise them with the variables which occur from one State to another.

Probationary constables emerge from this course with a far better understanding of, for example, bail conditions which apply in Victoria, as opposed to those interstate.

The Region is actively involved in implementing training modules designed to cater for the specific needs of investigators and their role outside community policing.

## Now they are detectives

Investigators course 2/92 was conducted in Southern Region during April-May this year.

As part of the decentralisation of training to the Regions, the course conducted by Southern Region Training Unit staff provided for 24 students.

The six-week's study course covered topics relevant to Regional investigations and, in line with Adult Education principles, emphasised hands-on training.

The course structure was developed after close consultation between the Southern Region Training Unit and staff from Investigations Training, Canberra.

During the course students and staff spent two days in the Acheron Valley area to develop team skills. All 24 members who undertook the training program satisfactorily completed the course.