

ACT officer recognised for community service

By Terry Browne
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Constable Dave Rugendyke of ACT Region has received a unique community service award from Mitsubishi Australia which was presented to him by the ACT Attorney-General Gary Humphries.

The two-part award comes from the Mitsubishi organisation and recognises the excellence in performance of the National Capital dealership and requires the dealership then to recognise a member of the local community for excellence in community service.

Mr Campbell Brede, the managing director of National Capital Motors Mitsubishi said that it was a pleasure to present this National Capital Motors and Mitsubishi Motors Australia limited 'Excellence Awards' for community service in 1994 to Constable Dave Rugendyke.

The presentation was held at the Winchester Police Centre, but was not only awarded for Constable Rugendyke's police service but also for his contribution to the Canberra community as a private citizen over a number of years.

Mr Humphries said: "Constable Rugendyke has worked with juveniles and young offenders, the elderly, the underprivileged and socially disadvantaged in the ACT and has been involved in community events and services impacting positively on wide cross section of the Canberra community, I understand that many in the community know him as 'Uncle Dave'.

"I understand that the selection of Dave as the recipient of this award has been a popular one among his



Presented the Mitsubishi excellence in community service award by the managing director of National Capital Motors Mitsubishi Mr Campbell Brede, Constable Dave Rugendyke was joined at the ceremony by his wife Barbara, grand-daughter Remy (l) and his mother Jean (r).

peers in the AFP and his senior officers.

"I have also been advised that Constable Rugendyke was quite stunned by the revelation that he was to be the recipient of the excellence award. As a dedicated provider of service to others, he had in fact nominated a number of others for the award.

"The thought that he may be nominated never crossed his mind."

Among Constable Rugendyke's contribution to the community has been the initiation of what is now an annual event, the Belconnen Mall Christmas trolley push. The purpose of the trolley push is to collect donations from shoppers and retailers for the distribution to the less fortunate in the community as Christmas gifts.

He is involved with a number of charities that help children, he is a member of the management committee of the Belconnen Youth Centre and he also collects unwanted white goods and arranges delivery to

needy families.

Dave and his wife Barbara are parents to five daughters and recently became grandparents, and still have enough energy and concern remaining that they may be caring for up to six children at any one time.

Dave's police service spans almost 15 years and during that time he has predominantly undertaken community policing through general uniform duties, and some time in the Juvenile Aid Bureau at Belconnen station. In January 1994 he received the Australia Day Medallion as a recognition of his commitment to service.

Since October of last year Constable Rugendyke has been the Country Town Police Officer for the suburb of Kaleen. He was keen to participate in the trial of Country Town Policing as he believes that in addition to law enforcement, police work also involves that of a social service nature and he is committed to fostering a close working relationship with all groups within his community.

T. Browne