

Cyprus service on display

An exhibition of photographs taken in Cyprus by Australian Police peacekeepers was launched at Sydney's Vibe Hotel on 19 February by Federal Senator Marise Payne, Chair of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

The exhibition titled: *Cyprus – Pictures of Peacekeeping*, was a three-week exhibition of images of the tremendous cross-section of life experienced by Australian police who have seen service with the United Nations mission in Cyprus since 1964.

The exhibition was commissioned by the Cyprus High Commissioner Achilleas Antoniadis in association with the United Nations Police Association of Australia. The photos exhibited were selected from more than 100 images entered by Australian police who have served in Cyprus, many with the Australian Federal Police.

The winning photo, taken by Tasmania Police officer Leon Kemp only months before the Turkish invasion of 1974, shows that police work is the same the world over even when a traffic collision was between a car and a military tank, the paperwork needed to be done.

Speaking at the launch, Denis Percy, the national president of the United Nations Police Association of Australia, said he hoped the exhibition would help more people realise Australian police are still in Cyprus.



It's Just A Minor Accident – Leon Kemp's winning photo of police taking driver particulars at a 'routine' traffic accident in Cyprus in 1974. Apparently, the UN armoured car was going the wrong way down a one way street.



Cyprus High Commissioner Achilleas Antoniadis.



Senator Marise Payne launches the exhibition.



Summer arrival in winter uniforms – R. Gillespie, 1964

In fact, the AFP currently has 15 members serving in Cyprus with commander Col Speedie, second-in-charge of the UN force.

Commander Speedie supervises 59 police officers from nine countries. The UN force also has 860 military personnel.

Apart from being disputed territory between Turkey and Greece, Cyprus has its problems with people smugglers, narcotics smuggling, and occasional illegal gambling. In the past six months UN police on Cyprus have investigated three deaths and assisted in the evacuation of those fleeing the war in Lebanon last July.

Since the UN mission began in 1964 more than 1500 Australian police – state and federal – have served in Cyprus with three Australian police having died while serving there.

Australia is the only country to have kept a continuous police presence with this mission since 1964.

Reunion in Sydney in October 2007

The NSW Police Branch of the United Nations Police Association of Australia (UNPAA) is inviting Australian police who have served with United Nations or IDG overseas operations to attend the 2007 United Nations Police re-union and conference from Sunday 21 October until Wednesday 24 October 2007.

Formal activities will include the unveiling of UNPAA memorial tablet by the NSW Police Commissioner and blessing by the Police Chaplain in the foyer of the Sydney Police Centre and a reception for delegates at the Sydney Town Hall hosted by Lord Mayor Clover Moore.

United Nations Day will be celebrated on 24 October with a march to the Cenotaph in Hyde Park for a service and the laying of wreaths. All enquiries to ozpercy@bigpond.com.au or Denis Percy on 02 8901 4606.

The photos to the right are a sample of the 100 photos chosen for the *Cyprus – Pictures of Peacekeeping* exhibition.



Donkeys at Work – D. Percy, 1971



Sharing Laughter – A. Humphreys, 1998



Turkish Children In The Buffer Zone– J. Little, 2004