

Scholarships encouraging pursuit of excellence

'With opportunity comes responsibility'

Sir Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Working for the AFP is a rewarding experience and for some members going beyond the call of duty can also bring benefits personally, professionally and ultimately for the community. Constable Ben Chapman and Sergeant Stephen Cooke provide an insight since both being awarded the Chequered Ribbon Association Scholarship and Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship.

In October 2006, at the annual Chequered Ribbon Association charity ball, the association awarded its first annual scholarship perpetuating the memory of AFP Chaplain Theo Freeth, to Constable Ben Chapman.

Chaplain Theo Freeth believed strongly in the CRA and expressed a wish to provide an opportunity for police officers to carry out projects that had the potential to make the community a safer place.

The Theo Freeth scholarship's aim is to provide financial assistance to further the successful applicant's knowledge in the area of a community-based policing project' and is open to sworn or unsworn members serving in a community-based policing role.

Constable Ben Chapman of the Territory Investigations Group was awarded the first scholarship to study geographic profiling analysis in late October 2006 at the British Columbia Institute in Vancouver, Canada.

"The funding provided an opportunity to further my knowledge and investigative skills in geographic profiling in a specialist course that could only be offered outside of Australia, as well as attain accreditation," Constable Chapman said.

This investigative technique is used

extensively by law enforcement agencies in the USA, Canada, UK, Europe and South Africa to assist in solving serial crimes, including violent crime and property-related crime. The technique can determine the most probable location of a serial offender's residence, or anchor point, through analysis of their crime sites.

Constable Chapman explained that research suggests that about half of crime is serial, with 10 per cent of all offenders committing 50 per cent of all crimes. Serial property crime is a significant issue for ACT Policing.

The Geographical Profiling Analysis Program which is developed by Environmental Criminology Research Incorporated is highly regarded. Two geographical profilers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) behavioural science unit were the presenters for this course.

"We were fortunate to have Detective Sergeant Karl Sesely and Corporal Sherri Darrah as they are two of only 11 qualified profilers around the world," Constable Chapman said.

"We were able to gain up-to-date information on the *Rigel Analyst Geographic Profiling* software which is considered the 'Rolls Royce' of geographic programs. The RCMP behavioural science unit use this system and consider it an important tool in serial crime investigations."

Rigel is a system for geographic profiling designed to support serial crime investigations by prioritising suspects and addresses and enabling the investigators to focus their resources on specific locations.

Participants in the course become

proficient in geographical profiling analysis over the two-week period of the course. Course graduates are qualified, initially under the mentorship of their trainers, to produce geographic profiling analyses for serial property crimes such as burglary, theft, robbery and arson.

There were 12 participants including intelligence officers, analysts and forensic students. It was a valuable experience for Constable Chapman to study with like-minded peers.

"I was also very fortunate to visit the RCMP behavioural unit, meet the team which has grown to more than 300 members since it was established four years ago, discuss current profiling approaches and establish valuable networks with the RCMP geographic and behavioural profilers," Constable Chapman said.

"The scholarship was very beneficial, not only for my professional development, but also to be able to effectively contribute to the objectives of Territory Investigation Group and take the initial steps towards developing a geographic profiling capability for ACT Policing."

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Scholarship

In July 2007, Sergeant Stephen Cooke was awarded the Churchill Scholarship. Sergeant Cooke is serving in Cyprus and *Platypus* contacted him about his proposed project.

Could you provide a summary of the project?

SC: The Churchill Scholarship will provide the opportunity to study the effectiveness of various support programs for families of police officers killed in the line of duty with the aim of implementing those



Right: Churchill recipient Sergeant Stephen Cooke

Left: CRA Theo Freeth recipient Constable Ben Chapman



programs through the Chequered Ribbon Association (AFP) here in Australia.

Particular focus will be on assessing those mechanisms designed to support and mentor children, while also focusing on the effectiveness of differing methods for application in both the short and long term. The project will also study the manner in which different organisations dedicate resources towards establishing infrastructures which readily allow for the provision of effective support to families.

Significant emphasis will be on information gathered from children who have been supported through this process and have now reached adulthood. This will enable the detailed analysis of the various mentoring and support programs that they experienced first-hand. Through this process, an assessment will be made as to the effectiveness or otherwise of different processes to ensure that only those that are most effective and helpful are brought back to Australia for future implementation. The project will provide a unique and important opportunity for the Chequered Ribbon Association to implement those support processes, which are proven to be most effective

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is highly regarded and quite competitive. Did you find the application process challenging and did you come up with a proposal that was unique and had appeal beyond the AFP?

SC: The process is very challenging.

The first part of the process is obviously preparing your application and anyone who has filled out a Churchill Scholarship application will know how difficult it is to include all the details of your proposal in just one or two paragraphs. You have to

be short and succinct, but also provide enough information to make it clear to the Churchill Trust exactly what you are proposing to do and how it will benefit the community.

If you are convinced that you have a good concept, and you believe that it is advantageous to the community, I think that really comes out in the process. It definitely shone through in the referee's reports, which is something that the Trust looks at very closely.

As far as coming up with a proposal that had appeal beyond the AFP to the community – this was quite simple as it was something I have been working at already with the Chequered Ribbon Association. The fact that you are looking to implement proven support processes to assist and care for families of police killed on duty, particularly where there are children involved, has obvious benefits to the community in that children are the ones who will suffer most from the loss of their parent. Effective support – both financial and social – means that families can live their lives without being disadvantaged, particularly when it comes to short and long term educational assistance for children.

At the regional interview, the Churchill Trust was very aware of the benefits to the community through the Chequered Ribbon Association being able to support families and children in this manner.

What reasons made you apply?

SC: The scholarship provides not only a wonderful opportunity for me, but it will also be beneficial to the welfare work of the CRA. Additionally, the Churchill Trust is a prestigious organisation and provides

tremendous opportunities for many Australians to be challenged in individual and specialised areas. Being able to travel to other parts of the world, study similar organisations and then bring back the best aspects of their programs is invaluable. The fact that this project has the potential to be so beneficial to legateses and the through this, the general community, makes it a great honour to be a Churchill Fellow.

You mentioned that you will be going to the UK, USA and Canada. Which institutions will you be visiting and how long will the study be for?

SC: I will head overseas around May–June 2008 for six weeks and spend two weeks at a time in each of these countries. I will specifically look at the 'COPS' charity organisations, 'COPS' stands for Care of Police Survivors. They are very successful organisations, providing tremendous financial and welfare assistance to the many families and children of fallen police officers. Additionally, they have stood the test of time, which is a good reflection on the level of their success. In Canada, I will look in to the Royal Canadian Mountie's as they are a similar style organisation to the AFP.

In addition to the Theo Freeth Memorial Scholarship, the CRA has also announced the creation of Adam Dunning Memorial Scholarship (up to \$3500) which will provide financial assistance to further the successful applicant's knowledge in the area of policing in an international context. Announcements for the CRA scholarships are expected at the next CRA ball to be held in October this year.