

While Dusty lands sea duty...



... Dena bombs out

At sea or ashore, there's no limit to the tricks a young dog can pick up.

But when it's in the line of duty, PCK9 is a very capable addition to the Force.

Take Probationary Constable Dusty, for instance. Dusty (pictured above) is a new recruit to the water police section of the AFP in Canberra.

At 28 weeks, he's busy learning his job of keeping the Yarralumla Bay wharf clean by chasing away visiting black cormorants and sea-gulls, and guarding the building, boats and police equipment.

Dusty, a red heeler and kelpie cross, has an ideal breeding background for the on-the-job training he's getting from his boss, Sergeant David Ashurst. But Dusty has learnt that it's much more fun — and rather more elite — to be a crew member of the police launch. He climbs aboard at every opportunity and will gladly forego the thrill of a bird chase for a patrol of Yarralumla Bay.

Dusty has a lot to live up to. His predecessor was Senior Constable Blue Dog, who died last December from arthritis and old age after some years of patrolling the water police foreshore establishment.

A dog of a different colour is Dena, pictured right. Dena, at 5, is one of the most popular identities seen regularly around Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport. She is one of four "bomb dogs" attached to the AFP.

Dena and her handler, First Constable Lewis Hutchinson, were photographed during a recent training session on the airport perimeter.

Bomb dogs, unlike police attack dogs, are specifically trained to detect explosives such as gelignite, TNT or gunpowder. For reasons of temperament, they are always female.

Dena's male counterparts are used for general duties such as searches for lost property and tracking work.



CSM FAREWELLED

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Within seconds of walking into the open he was pelted with rocks, one of which split open his head. An iron bar broke the hammer's handle.

Left with only his baton, and although injured, he still managed to rescue both the diplomat and his wife.

The wife, by this time, was in what was described as an "attempt rape" situation, two men having smashed their way

into the locked car with iron bars.

The attackers escaped in a stolen four-wheel drive High Commission vehicle.

Constable Dawes was treated for his injuries and the diplomat's wife for shock.

Constable Dawes spent several days off work recuperating from his ordeal.

Despite the incident, he requested — and was granted — an extension to his tour of duty in Papua New Guinea.

Pat sets Perth record straight — in verse

When Perth-based Senior Constable Pat McCarthy has his head down writing busily at his desk, he might not be working on a report.

Instead, he could be penning another stinging verse about some unfortunate colleague who has somehow come unstuck in the course of his duties.

For Pat has an unusual hobby: writing off-the-cuff poems. And he writes about people and events around him finding inspiration in those embarrassing moments when things go horribly wrong.

For example, there was the time an AFP man was stopped by a traffic patrolman for not wearing a seat belt while driving. His official identity made no impression on the State officer. Minutes later our man compounded the offence by driving through a red light — no doubt distracted by the first incident.

Pat found out about this later at a chance meeting with the State officer during a joint State-AFP raid, and promptly got out his barbed pen and paper to immortalise the event.

On another occasion, an officer stationed at Perth Airport proudly made his first arrest, but moments later found himself in the middle of a melee started by those he nabbed. "I wrote a long piece about that," recalled Pat.

Pat has been writing his poems for many years. He has been based in Perth since 1974 and is currently in charge of the Warrant and Summons section.

Here is one of his efforts:

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Red is for stop
Green is for go
If you go through the red one
You'll go for a row.
Very important you may be
The fuzz will still get a grip of thee.
Cameras hidden everywhere
Taking pictures of you there.
And as you rent and pull your hair
A large fine you'll have to bear.
So fasten seat belts as you go
And you won't have this tale of woe.



• Senior Constable Pat McCarthy.