



Platypus

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ACT SELF-RULE OPTIONS SURVEY RESULTS

AFP best kept in present form, say members

Keep the AFP intact. That was the majority vote of Canberra-based members surveyed earlier this year on possible alternatives for policing in the national capital.

The matter of what type of police force the ACT should have has arisen with the possible advent of self-government in the territory.

The official survey, conducted in March, covered ACT-based members and the small number of former ACT members who have transferred to the regions.

Each was sent a copy of a questionnaire detailing the three options which it is considered would be viable under any self-determination proposal. These are:

- a separate ACT Police Force, broadly similar in structure to the former ACT Police;
- contractual policing (possibly based on a Canadian model) operating in Canberra;
- AFP to continue in its present form.

The Commissioner, Major-General R.A. Grey, in a letter attached to the questionnaire, said: "There have been some media comments and speculation on the issue, some of which purport to represent the views of serving AFP members.

"I think it proper that those member who are serving, or who have

served in the ACT, should be able to express their preference."

Formal responses were received from all ranks — from Chief Superintendents to Constables.

Of the 634 copies of the questionnaire returned, 310 members voted for the AFP to continue in its present form and 134 for a system of contractual policing within the AFP; 190 members voted for a return to a separate ACT police force broadly similar to the structure of the former ACT police.

Service awards for 5



The Commissioner, Major-General R.A. Grey, presented several National Medals for 15 years' service and a 10-year Clasp at a recent special ceremony in Canberra. He is shown presenting Chief Inspector Dick Allatson with the National Medal. Others pictured are: from left, Senior Constable Peter Kingston (National Medal, in addition to the RAAF's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal); Senior Sergeant Ray Leister (National Medal); Station Sergeant Lionel Barrett (National Medal); and, far right, Assistant Commissioner John Reilly (Clasp).

New computer system boosts finance services for Force

Australian Federal Police Financial Resources Branch staff have begun using a revolutionary new computer system to assist in the management of

a wide range of finance operations.

The system, developed by an AFP team and the Canberra-based company Management Solutions Pty. Ltd., allows staff to process all financial transactions through computer terminals on their desks.

The system covers budgeting, purchasing, travel services, accounts processing, chart of accounts, and financial information and reporting.

Sub-systems which support various functions in the purchasing, finance and personnel areas are closely inter-related to allow information to flow between them.

The purchasing and travel sub-systems, for instance, generate accounting information which can be used directly by the accounts processing sub-system; the accounts processing sub-system in turn generates posting information

which is used by the financial information sub-system.

The system also has been designed to assist the implementation of program budgeting by the AFP.

Up-to-date expenditure reports will enable senior officers to control the financial affairs of their units more effectively.

The AFP has been commended by computer management for its foresight and initiative in commissioning the development of such a new and advanced computer concept.

Up to now, the AFP has used the Department of Finance computer systems which record accounting transactions after the event.

The new system goes well beyond this by allowing the accounting staff to check out and process all transactions as they actually occur.

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A MOTTO FOR THE AFP

Does the AFP want its own motto or not? Remember that question being put in a recent edition of 'Platypus'?

Members were asked to fill in a cut-out coupon and send it in. The response has been slow, but the replies that have come in so far all very definitely favour an AFP motto.

Suggestions range from some which are well known, to others which have involved some considerable thought by members.

Examples of suggestions received are:

- For the Good of the Public.
- God and My Right.
- Justice through Diligence.
- Let Justice be Done.
- Loyalty and Self-Discipline.

If you have a suggestion for a motto, send it in to The Editor, 'Platypus', PO Box 401, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

Regional

The 1984 Regional Commanders' Conference was held recently. Attending were: From left, standing, Inspector John Martin (acting OIC, NT); Mr Steve Gavin, (Chief Executive Officer, OAFP); Inspector Ray Thomson (Regional Commander SA); Brian Kelly (Welfare Officer); Assistant Commissioner John Reilly (Personnel); Chief Superintendent Arthur Brown (ACT Region); Assistant Commissioner Ray McCabe (Regional Commander, NSW); Chief Superintendent Peter Dawson (Chief of Staff); Chief Superintendent Alan Morley (Regional Commander, Vic.); Chief Superintendent Bill Antill (Regional Commander, Qld.); Superintendent Frank Pimm (Regional Commander, WA); Inspector Wally May (Regional Commander, Tas.). Front row: Deputy Commissioner (Investigation) John Johnson; Commissioner R.A. Grey; Deputy Commissioner (Administration) Roy Farmer; Assistant Commissioner Val McCounaghy (Commander ACT Region).



Accident squad reunion brings out the changes

The 'good old days' of road accidents had a sentimental airing recently when the AFP's Accident Squad held its 20th anniversary dinner.

About 115 former and present members of the squad attended. They came from many parts of NSW, Victoria and even Perth for the occasion.

Discussion went back to 5 May 1964 when the first ACT police accident squad was formed, under the late Sergeant Jock Turner. He had seven officers working with him — and six of them were at the dinner.

They were Col Winchester (Chief Superintendent), Bob Brown (Senior Sergeant, driver training), Don Halmarick (acting Inspector, Sydney), Ken Ayers (Inspector, Greg Lomax and Bob Riddle (both retired). The seventh member, Len Potter, now acting Superintendent in charge of City CID, couldn't attend because of work.

Deputy Commissioner John Johnson also attended, along with former members ex-Superintendent Joe Medwin, who was officer-in-charge of the squad for a number of years, and Mick Gannon, who was one of its longest-serving sergeants.

Anecdotes were many and lasted until the early hours.

Chief Superintendent Winchester said conditions were vastly different in those days. It was not unusual for one man to attend a major accident and to have to handle all the traffic control, report work and cleaning up.

Chief Inspector Peter Curtis, present officer-in-charge of Traffic, said that since it was formed, the

squad had attended more than 70,000 accidents of which more than 600 were fatals.

The squad had begun with two EH model Holdens, with one officer in each. In 1966, the first VW Kombis joined the squad and this type of vehicle was used from then until 1982. They were then replaced with the present Ford Transit vans.

These, in turn, are to be replaced soon by Toyota vans.

Squad members recalled with some sympathy their counterparts who found themselves on their own at the scene of an accident. But most were envious of the officers who drove around in the excellent comfort of an EH Holden.

Visiting Italian law men see the sights

Two Italian examining magistrates and two Italian police officers visited Australia recently.

The magistrates, in Perth to interview a man wanted in Rome in connection with a series of gang crimes, had more time than their police colleagues, and were taken to the WA Centres of Northam, York and Toodyay to see the country sights.

The police, who arrived later to escort the prisoner back to Rome, also had bad weather to contend with and settled for seeing some kangaroos at the Wanneroo lion park.

However, they made up for it by buying 30 souvenir boomerangs to take back to friends and relatives.

Ray said the Italians believed it was the first extradition from Australia to Italy.

He was impressed by the magistrates' powers, which he described as "extensive" under Italian law.

"Suspects are required to answer their questions, and you stay until they decide you are free to go," he said.

The magistrates check evidence in all major indictable offences and put together the prosecution cases.

"The magistrates could not think how we in Australia could get people before the courts," said Ray.

'Specialist' scheme in action

Thailand's Police Department has long since solved the problems which sometimes arise in bringing in 'lateral entry' specialists to work with those who train at the Thai Police Academy and come up through the ranks, according to Thai

Police Captain Ittipong Pattanapong.

Captain Ittipong was recently in Canberra working with the Australian National Central Bureau (Interpol).

He said that although the majority of recruits entered the force

through the normal training channels, Thailand had found that the use of people who were specialists in the many fields associated with police work had created a much more effective crime fighting organisation.

Captain Ittipong is himself a good example. Since he entered the Thai police straight from university nearly ten years ago, he has worked in the important area of international crime.

"My ability in English was a big asset," he said. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, with English as a major.

"Interpol is a vital area of the force," he said. "The contact is considerable, particularly in relation to drug-related crime."

Captain Ittipong said that in 1981 he had been able to attend a National Central Bureau training seminar in Paris. He was visiting Australia on a three-month advanced English course under the Colombo Plan.

"It was good to be able to work out of the AFP's Interpol Bureau," he said. "Meeting people personally is so important."

He also took the opportunity to get to know AFP drug unit specialists. On his return to Thailand he will become Assistant Interpol Drug Liaison Officer.



The AFP's officer-in-charge of the Australian National Central Bureau (Interpol), Inspector John Vincent (right) and Acting Senior Sergeant Edward Hadzic, demonstrate the bureau's facsimile machine for Captain Ittipong.

Finance boost

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It is time saving and enables finance staff to provide a much more efficient accounting service to the Force.

The system will come on line for regional use on 1 July 1985 and training for regional staff will begin early next year.