

# POLICE MAKE HISTORY

**A**N Australian branch of the Police History Society has been formed to provide those interested in police history with direct links to members of the society in overseas countries.

The Australian branch was formally set up in June, with Senior Constable Ray Bedford, of the AFP Northern Region, as the founding member. He also will represent New Zealand until a branch is formed there.

The society was formed in the United Kingdom and held its first annual general meeting in September last year. Because of international interest, the society's constitution was amended to widen activities to cover police history generally rather than UK history alone.

Membership is open to all individuals with an interest in police history. It is hoped that not only those associated with police service will become members. Archivists, students and academics are also invited to join.

The society already has an international flavour with members in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the United States and Canada.

The organisation will act as a focal point and network for all those who are interested in police history and will promote the subject through talks and meetings, publication of contemporary research, encouraging research into all aspects of police work and by maintaining a register of specialist interest and expertise.

The society also encourages the preservation of appropriate documents and other material relating to the history of the police and maintains a register of police museums and archives and their curators or keepers.

Ray Bedford, as an ex-officio member of the UK Committee, is in close touch with activities in that country.

"Membership at the moment remains for most an act of faith and investment for the future," he said. "However, that is not to say that nothing is happening. Negotiations are under way with a publisher on providing members with a quality quarterly publication which it is hoped will be sought after for its historical content. In the meantime, a quarterly newsletter will be mailed to all members.

"Our publications will deal mainly with historical content pertaining to Australian and the New Zealand police profession," he said. "However, it is hoped that in each issue of the journal, there will be at least one article of general historical significance concerning law enforcement."

One of the early members in the UK branch of the society is Chief Inspector Don Bosman, now Head of the Australian National Central Bureau (Interpol). Don was invited to join after the successful publication of his book 'Christmas Island Police 1958-1983' covering 25 years of policing on the Island after it became an Australian Territory.

Ray said that the Police History Society in Australia was not intended to compete against existing police force historical societies, but rather to complement them by providing an overall study and interest in police history both in Australia and overseas.

Information on membership can be obtained from Ray in Brisbane.



• Liaison Officers at the South East Asian Liaison Officers Conference held in Bangkok last August.

## GRAND PRIX TATTOO



• The AFP showing the flag at the international Police Tattoo.

**A**DELAIDE'S carnival atmosphere of October, climaxed by the tremendously successful Australian Formula One Grand Prix, was highlighted by an International Police Tattoo, held at Wayville Showground.

The Tattoo, organised by South Australia Police as their contribution to the State's 150 years Jubilee celebration, proved a big success despite the international competition.

It coincided with the 21st International Executive Council meeting of the International Police Association, which attracted about 700 visitors from around the world.

All Australian police forces participated in the Tattoo, along with a New Zealand team.

The AFP's Deputy Commissioner Roy Farmer attended as an official guest, and the Central Region provided a marching contingent of 18 'volunteers', led by Inspector Bryan Guest.

Interspersed with many fine musical interludes provided by the police bands, were spectacular demonstrations by the SA Police dog squad, State Emergency Service, Police motorcycle and precision driving units, and the Special Tasks and Rescue Squad.