



Detective Sergeant Jim Duffy

by Brian Minards

DETECTIVE Sergeant Jim Duffy probably didn't have to shave when he first became a policeman... he joined the South Australian police force at the tender age of 16 years and nine months in 1968.

Detective Sergeant Duffy works in the fraud and general crime section of the AFP in Southern Region.

He is married and has two children.

In the five years he spent in the South Australian force he served at a number of locations until 1973 when he sought better pay and greater opportunities in the former Commonwealth Police.

He enjoys his work with the AFP in Melbourne and outlined a recent case he worked on as an example: 'It involved an Austrian fellow who conducted a wholesale business selling heating implements supplied by a Spanish company on a cash-on-delivery basis.

'In 1985 he took delivery of one million dollars worth of equipment, sold it to his clients, and deposited the money into a number of his own bank accounts.'

Detective Sergeant Duffy said at the same time the man was selling off his assets and finalising immigration requirements to come to Australia.

'He arrived in Melbourne in March 1986 and bought one house to live in and

OFFICER PROFILE

a second as an investment, both allegedly paid for by the fraud in Austria. He also is alleged to have set up a building firm with the proceeds from the fraud,' Detective Sergeant Duffy said.

He added that the house the man had lived in was worth half a million dollars. The Australian authorities had traced the man to Australia and were granted a warrant of arrest for extradition.

The case was referred to the AFP and the man was arrested on July 1 this year. Detective Sergeant Duffy said the man had fought the case on a number of technicalities in a bid to avoid extradition. However it was expected to go ahead, after which he would face trial in Austria.

He said working on such cases added variety to the job and it also fostered good relationships between police forces of different countries.

Darwin Days

'In a word, Tracey,' was his response to a question about other career highlights.

Detective Sergeant Duffy had been transferred to Darwin in the Commonwealth police and remembers vividly that Christmas Eve: 'I was at a party during which time the wind gradually increased in its intensity. 'We had dismissed cyclone warnings as just another blow, and I decided to leave the party when all of a sudden a one hundred year old mango tree in the back yard was blown over'.

He drove home along deserted streets dodging flying debris and arrived just before the worst of the cyclone set in.

'From about 1 a.m. on Christmas Day the wind grew stronger and stronger

until it reached frightening proportions at which it blew for about three hours.

'At daybreak after the cyclone subsided it was difficult to drive anywhere because of the debris. Many of the landmarks such as street signs, vegetation and buildings had simply been blown away,' he said.

'We found a motorist trapped in his car and we did as much as we could for him until help arrived, but I believe he died later in hospital.

'The devastation is something I'll remember for the rest of my life.'

Detective Sergeant Duffy has definite ideas about policing today in comparison to the situation that existed a generation ago.

'I think we have to adapt readily to modern technology, because we're into an era now where we are dealing with accountants, solicitors and corporate criminals and in many drug cases we are up against some very clever people.

'We need to keep up with the criminal element if we want to succeed,' he said, adding that the AFP was doing that by providing its officers with the appropriate training courses.

Looking to the future in his career as an AFP officer Detective Sergeant Duffy said he was recently selected for promotion to the Drug Operations Branch and if successful in holding that promotion he would like to work in that area and at some stage perhaps the administration area.

He said he enjoyed living and working in Melbourne but if a transfer improved his career prospects the move would not worry him.

