

FEDS FINGER FIBBER

FEDERAL police in Queensland recently received a job application from a thirty-year old man who wanted join the AFP. As all members know, people applying for jobs with the force have to reveal any convictions or any dealings with the police. When he left that space blank, it was pointed out to him that a check would be run.

A check was run. A good handful of convictions, some quite serious. Our character admitted to one of them, a traffic matter, insisting that the others were a case of mistaken identity. Again he was given the opportunity to correct his application. As he did not, he was advised that a further check would be made; the police would need a thumbprint.

A thumbprint they got. Police records already had the perfect match for it — several times over. Faced with the evidence, our prospective peeler, in the words of the official report, 'made full admissions'.

He was arrested and charged under section 62(1) of the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*. He pleaded guilty before a magistrate and was fined \$250 in default five weeks imprisonment with one month to pay.

And so he made history. He is the first person to be convicted for making a false statement under the Act.

A disturbing feature of this sad story is that the offender claimed that he had been advised by his pastor not to reveal his convictions when putting in for the job.

AFP members will understand that their job requires judgement and

maturity. All applicants for jobs in the AFP must be of good character. Failure to reveal an offence may be more serious than the offence itself. Deception of that kind is not a sign of good judgement.

So if you get an enquiry about employment with the AFP, tell 'em this story!

ANY ARRESTING PHOTOS?

SHUTTERBUGS will have the opportunity later this year to participate in two prestigious photographic competitions, one timed for the Winter, the other for Spring. And you don't have to be a pro!

First off the rank is the Twelfth Exhibition of Police Photography of Australasia and the South West Pacific Region. This is mounted in conjunction with the Conference of Commissioners of Police of the Region. Darwin is the venue this year and the public showing runs from 2 to 10 July 1987.

Trophies will be awarded to prize winners in three categories: police work, police public relations, and general. All work hung will earn a certificate.

Colour and black-and-white prints are acceptable. Both police and civilian employees are eligible. You can get entry forms and conditions from Information Systems and Scientific Services Division or from Force Development and Analysis Branch in Canberra.

Next big one is the Rollei Police Photography Awards. This one is organized by the NSW Police in conjunction with a major photographic wholesaler.

As you can guess, there are plenty of goodies as prizes, totalling around \$20 000. Projected dates are October-November 1987.

Entry for the Rollei Awards is fairly wide. Conditions and entry forms are not yet available, but look out for a closing date in October. If you're keen about this one you'll see it advertised in camera magazines. Senior Constable Mike Grima at NSW Police Headquarters in 14 College Street Sydney (02 339 0277) is putting it together.

Platypus has seen some of the results of earlier police photography shows. The standard is high, so readers should start work now on their prints for both these well-known contests.

SERVICE CLUB HELPS DRUG FIGHT

THE AFP is not alone in its war on drugs. One of the organizations co-operating in the fight is the Lions Club of Canberra Valley who recently put up the money to print and distribute several thousand posters and flyers advertising an 'Operation Noah' phone-in.

Drug Awareness is a major project of Lions Clubs world wide. Canberra Valley is fortunate in having as its 'Drug Awareness' Chairman Chief Inspector Euan Walker of ACT Legal Services. It is no coincidence, then, that former OAFP Administrative Officer Ken Sandoe is Secretary of the Club. Detective Inspector Kevin McTavish of the ACT Drug Squad was quick to take up the offer of assistance.

FIRST STAGE FOUR COURSE IN SYDNEY

ON 6 March 1987 the first ever Stage Four course to be held in Sydney graduated at a formal dinner at the Sheraton Wentworth. Dux of the class of 24 (including five women) was Constable Mark Rowe, shown here receiving his prize from Assistant Commissioner Ray McCabe.

In his speech to the gathering, Assistant Commissioner McCabe said that being in the police force was like being in a sporting team engaged in a never-ending combat with a completely unprincipled opponent. The referee is the magistrate, the judge, or the ombudsman, observing only your team and penalising you for foul play.

'The public perception of your personal integrity and that of your team will be based on the referee's award of penalties against you', he said.

