

DUX HAD A HEAD START

by Stephen Simpson

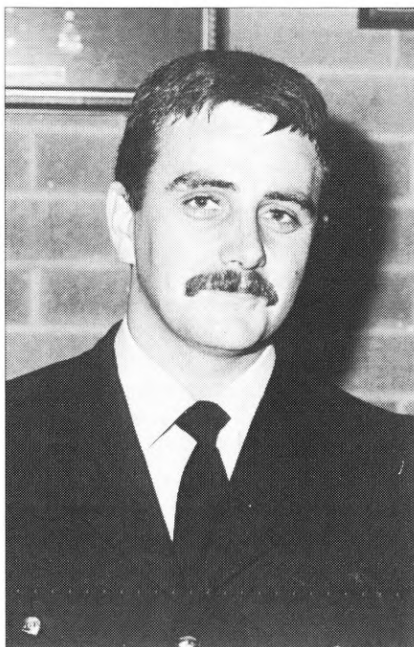
BEING dux of the basic training course which graduated on 8 May this year is no mean feat. Take nothing away from dux Justin Peters, he no doubt worked hard for the honour. But as a former police prosecutor with the South Australia Police, he had a head start on most of the others.

Justin was a career police officer with the SA Police. He joined them as a cadet in 1975 and was a Second Class Constable when he resigned in 1985.

Against 150 other applicants Justin then landed a job with the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide as their security manager. When the job was no longer a challenge he became bored. He had met some AFP officers from Adelaide who suggested he join the Federal force. The reports he had about the AFP were generally good, so he sat for the entrance exam. The English was easy, the maths was hard, but he passed and started basic training in February this year.

The basic training course which covered law theory and practical law was right up Justin's alley, but there was still a lot of study for him. He had never dealt with Commonwealth law before and he had to learn ACT Police procedures which differ from those in South Australia.

As a prize for being dux, Justin was



Constable Justin Peters, Dux of Class 1020.

presented with a wall plaque by the Turkish Ambassador as well as a book on Turkish history. The AFP gave him two law books.

Justin recently finished his local procedures course in Sydney and has just

commenced his job rotations stage in the General Inquiries Unit in Sydney. 'I would eventually like to work in the CIB. Major crime would be very interesting but it wouldn't be easy to get into. I guess I'd have to wait a few years and prove myself', he said. Justin feels his previous police experience would be of some advantage in most AFP areas, but more so in major crime. As a police prosecutor he became an expert interrogator as well as knowing how to present evidence in court. He feels relaxed in court and can think quickly on his feet.

Justin has not found the going easy since his decision to join the AFP. The long periods during basic training away from his wife and two young children in Adelaide; the substantial cut in pay he has taken while in training; and the enormous housing cost differences between Adelaide and Sydney where he feels his future lies; all these things have had him doubting from time to time whether he has made the right decision.

'We've had to make some big sacrifices for me to join up', he said, referring to his wife and family. 'From talking to people here in the last couple of weeks, it appears, jobwise, I have made the right choice'.

We all hope so Justin. Time will tell.

DARWIN RELAY TEAM

The AFP Social Club in Darwin did its bit for charity in the inaugural Humpty Doo to Darwin Relay in March. With only a couple of ring-ins, the AFP team finished 15th in a 20-team field, but raised \$2719 of the total \$5112 for good causes.

For which they took home the perpetual shield.

The run is a fixed stage relay over a distance of 50 kilometres. Each team consisted of seven men and four women.

The picture shows, from left to right:

Men: First Constable Lloyd Palmer, Detective Sergeant Colin Hardman (NTPOL), Detective Inspector Trevor Young, First Constable Mladen Bosnic, Detective Senior Constable Bob Craven, Chris Kuster (Customs), Constable Tony Taylor.

Women: Chris Martin (OAFP), First Constable Leanne Lomas, Constable Gail Bell, Anne Moore.

