

# THE AFP'S "MATCHBOX MAN"



Constable Nigel Rabel: "Anybody want a light?"

Constable Nigel Rabel (Communications-Southern Region) admits he has never conducted an exact count of his collection of books and boxes of matches, but estimates there are at least 1500 from around the world.

An ex-Royal Navy sailor, now with the Victoria Police, donated his collection of about 200 books and boxes to Nigel about eight years ago.

The collecting "bug" bit hard and Nigel admits he has been staggered by the diversity of shape, size and colour of his collection.

The match holders range from the zany to the risqué and spectacular, with some — especially those from the South East Asian region — almost falling within the "works of art" description, being finished in a satin-like material.

Nigel says he is always looking to add to his collection and anyone in the AFP who picks up a book or box of matches that's different or unusual and would like to donate it is most welcome to forward it on to him.

He points out that one of the great things about collecting matches is the minimal outlay, plus the fact they're light and easy to carry around during trips and there are never any problems bringing them into the country.

Although his wife has said from time to time she would like to burn the lot, she concedes the collection — held in containers in their lounge room — is of interest to visitors and a great conversation starter.

But of necessity, the collection does have to be kept out of the reach of children, especially those of guests visiting the Rabel home.



## WELL TRAVELLED OFFICER

Senior Constable Charles Dumas' life has been anything but dull.

Charles travelled to many parts of the world with the British Army and his experiences included being verbally abused and shot at in Northern Ireland. Even the most casual acquaintance would realise here is a man who has already had a full life, although only 45.

Charles was born in Mauritius. His early education resulted in his learning French and English in addition to Creole, the islander language used by the people of Mauritius, the Seychelles and Reunion Island.

When he turned 18, Charles joined the Mauritius Police Force. The move, although he probably didn't realise it at the time, was a precursor to the discipline of the British Army.

Charles chose to leave the police and sign up with the British Army when members of the Gloucestershire Regiment arrived on Mauritius in a bid to maintain control during the unrest which preceded the British colony's move toward independence.



Sen. Const. Charles Dumas holds the result of one of his outside interests — painting. In this case it is a picture of Royal Australian Navy aircraft flying over Jervis Bay.

He travelled to England when the force concluded its tour of duty on Mauritius. During the next nine years of army service he rose to the rank of sergeant and along the way he studied German and art.

Being fluent in German, French and English meant Charles was adequately equipped to work for the Army's intelligence section and his abilities were particularly useful as an interpreter for the occupation forces when his Regiment was posted to West Berlin.

Life in the British Army certainly provided its fair share of interest.

Other tours of duty included Aden, Cyprus, West Germany (as opposed to West Berlin), the United States (at Fort Carson, Colorado) and Northern Ireland.

The close encounters of the worst kind he experienced in Ulster convinced Charles there had to be a better, safer lifestyle elsewhere. He was able to raise sufficient funds to bring about an earlier-than-scheduled end to his military service and headed for the land down-under.

The "good old days" of 1969 when jobs were readily available resulted in Charles Dumas working with the Plumrose company for about 12 months before he joined the (then) Commonwealth Police.

He underwent basic training at the Manly Police College, after which he was sent to Melbourne, which at that time boasted about a dozen or so Commonwealth Police stations.

Constable Dumas worked in most of them including Melbourne Airport, headquarters and communications (Charles is quick to add with a wry grin, his time in communications was "fairly brief". He does have an accent!)

Along the way there were further courses in Canberra including general

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duties, resulting in time with the (since defunct) Consular Patrol Group, Family Court, Freedom of Information Liaison Officer in Victoria, Administration, Drug Registrar and the role he now performs; Registrar for Property and Exhibits.

Not content with having four languages to his credit, Charles has just completed a course in Italian and intends learning Vietnamese during a course he would like to begin within the next 12 months.

He is also a member of the

Australian Guild of Realist Artists (Victoria).

His talent with brush and pen is well recognised by many in the Southern Region and he's often among the first to know when there's a commendation or similar award on the way for one of his colleagues.

On more than one occasion Charles has been asked to put to use his deft penmanship by adding the name of a member to a certificate in decorative script (such as Olde English) in keeping with the style of the certificate.

Happily married to Margaret (his childhood sweetheart who had emigrated to Australia about three years before Charles) the couple have two children, Christine, 16, and Kylie, seven.

A member of the Australian Federal Police who enjoys the challenge of the job, Charles was recently presented with a medallion for his long service, having completed 15 years service with the AFP and the Commonwealth Police.



## UNITED NATIONS DAY OBSERVED BY AFP

More than 80 AFP and military personnel, who were former UN Peace Keepers, were led by Deputy Commissioner (Operations) Roy Farmer in a short memorial service held at 11am at the Australian War Memorial on Monday, October 24, to mark United Nations Day.

They were addressed by Deputy Commissioner John Johnson, representing the Commissioner, and then by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Mrs Ros Kelly, MP.

Mrs Kelly said that it was a special occasion for her because her father, when in the NSW Police, had served in Cyprus at the same time as Deputy Commissioner Farmer and she was happy to say that he, like Mr Farmer, had come back.

"However, some didn't. Many of you here today will remember Sergeant Lew Thomas, Inspector Pat Hackett, and Constables Ian Ward and John Woolcott," she said. "We are here to commemorate them. We are here to remember them, and to remember why they died."



Representatives of the UN Peacekeeping Force on parade at the Australian War Memorial.

She recalled the most recent death of Australian Army Captain Peter McCarthy, who, while serving with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation in Lebanon, was killed on January 12, 1988, by a land mine.

"Genuinely, they died for peace, and for the ideals that the UN stands for," she said. "Their willingness, and

your willingness, those of you who have returned . . . is the best guarantee we have for peace."

Wreaths were then laid by Mrs Kelly, Mr Johnson and the widow of Captain McCarthy, Mrs Susan McCarthy, which was followed by the playing of the Last Post, a minute's silence and the Rouse.

## CYPRUS MEDALS

On September 21, Chief Inspector Jim Jamieson and Sergeant Clive Webster of UNCIVPOL were presented with the National Medal by the Australian High Commissioner for Cyprus, His Excellency, Mr David Wadham, at a private presentation service at the High Commission in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Detective Senior Constable Sandra Webster flew to Cyprus to join her husband for a short end of tour holiday before Clive began duty with Executive Services in Canberra.

## LANGUAGE MAN

Constable G. Mattioli of Intelligence Investigations Branch, BCI HQ, has recently been appointed as an Executive Committee member and honorary treasurer of the Canberra Branch of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (A.I.I.T.)

The major objectives of the A.I.I.T. are to establish and maintain high standards in the fields of interpreting and translating; to provide a code of ethics; and to screen candidates for membership for proficiency, honesty and professional achievement.

The A.I.I.T. is recognised and supported by the National Accreditation

Authority for Translators and Interpreters, and includes representatives from various State and Federal government departments.

### CORRECTION

Platypus 23 carried an article ("An AFP First") which discussed first aid training.

Sergeant Steve Samuels (Recruit Training) points out that a first aid course of one day is compulsory for all recruits and currently all one day courses are given by the St John Ambulance Brigade.