

# AFP Cyprus Contingent remembers the Anzacs

**A**NZAC Day 1990 was celebrated by the 32nd Cyprus Contingent to UNFICYP at Waynes Keep Military Cemetery, situated in the Buffer Zone not far from the main gate into the United Nations Protected Area.

There are three Australian graves in the cemetery which is cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. As the cemetery's northern boundary is actually the Turkish Ceasefire Line, the Anzac Dawn Service celebrants found themselves being observed by Turkish soldiers from a few feet away.

This year the Dawn Service was conducted by the Reverent Captain Peter Rutherford, RACHD, who gave a very moving and accurate speech about Australians at Gallipoli. The service was attended by the force commander Major General C. Milner, OMM CD, and the Chief of Staff, Brigadier W.J. Courage, MBE, together with representatives from all contingents.

The AFP Contingent and guests then met at the Austcivpol mess for a gunfire breakfast.

The Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, Mr E.V. Stevens, arranged a service later in Nicosia after which we all attended a reception at the High



**Commander Alan Mills laying a wreath on behalf of 32nd Cyprus Contingent.**

Commissioner's home in Nicosia.

Traditional Anzac Day activities were pursued later that afternoon when a crowd gathered at Austcivpol.

This year the contingent was blessed with a visit from Ernie White and his wife Penny. Ernie recently retired from the Victoria Police at the rank of Detective Chief Inspector. He was a member

of the first Australian Police Contingent to Cyprus in 1964 when he served as a First Constable with former Superintendent Mick Richards of the AFP. Penny and Ernie actually met in Cyprus and married a short time later. Penny was born in the UK and in 1964 was a teacher in Famagusta.

**By Superintendent John Cooper**

## Western Region stalwart passes on

**Western Region Headquarters is much sadder for the sudden loss of Syd Fletcher, one of the Region's senior, long-serving and highly respected employees.**

Commander Harry Dales, Officer-in-Charge Western Region, in a eulogy at his funeral service, said of Syd: "We came to rely on Syd for so many things over the years and his passing has created a void that is going to be very difficult to fill.

"Syd was never going to make headlines — his duties didn't allow for that — but he, and others like him, are just as much a part of our successes as others who perhaps enjoy a higher profile.

"He was one of the tireless behind the scenes workers who are often forgotten, or even taken for granted when

thanks for a job well done are being recorded.

"It is a mark of the man that, in recent weeks, when his health started to desert him, he thought not of himself, but of others...

"...to think of his colleagues in the Federal Police and, as his failing health permitted, he tried to keep his part of the AFP 'house' in order, and pass on as much knowledge as possible to his successors."

Syd spent 43 of his years in the Public Service, serving not only with the Commonwealth Police and the AFP, but with the Royal Australian Air Force, the Department of Civil Aviation, the Department of Repatriation and the Department of Administrative Services.

Never afraid of change or technological advancements, Syd was instrumen-

tal in keeping Western Region's finances under control through computerised travel, purchasing, accounts and assets control.

Syd had pride in his work and achievements and was able to claim that Western Region's records were always accurate and up to date.

He also demonstrated a seldom seen dexterity in his dealings with other Departments and implemented his almost unique ability, on behalf of his employer, to achieve the best possible deal for the least possible outlay.

Commander Dale's words in his eulogy weren't just platitudes.

He said privately of Syd Fletcher: "He was a well respected man, who will be sorely missed by his colleagues, and in particular, by me."

Syd died of lung cancer on Saturday 9 June, 1990. He is survived by his loving children Alison and Warren.