

# 1990 in review

A year of challenge and change is possibly the best way of describing 1990. Change came in the form of the unified workforce. Fixed term appointments were introduced for police members on 2 July and for staff members on 22 November.

As always the challenge to prevent and detect crime was ever present. The following reports covering the operational highlights of 1990 were compiled by the Regional Media Liaison Officers.

## NORTHERN REGION

**D**URING 1990, high levels of investigational activity were maintained by members of Northern Region with creditable results.

As part of the progress towards strengthening Northern Region's capability, review teams were established in January to undertake a job redesign exercise embracing Operations Division, the Gold Coast, North Queensland, Northern Territory, Organised Crime and Crime Support and Co-ordination Branches. Small working committees from within each Branch considered many issues and a sound basis for organisational and staffing purposes consistent with Strategic Management Plans. Use of this approach resulted in many members feeling some ownership in the outcome and hence greater commitment to the task. Assistant Commissioner Antill said: "Members and staff should be congratulated on the effort they have put into preparing the report and their interests in improving the productivity and effectiveness of the AFP." He also said it was pleasing to note the high level of involvement by regional members in the AFP Fitness Program and other sporting events, as well as the development of sound liaison links with other government agencies.

Referring to investigational success, Assistant Commissioner Antill said: "I have been particularly pleased at the dedication of members and staff and the way major investigations have been managed. "I have been immensely satisfied with the work of all members in the



*Heroin weighing 7.5 kg was intercepted at Darwin Airport in April 1990.*

Region. This included members and staff within intelligence, support areas including technical, administration, services and surveillance. The work provided by these members is quite often not recognised," he said.

Features of the year have included the increasing significance of Papua New Guinea in crime enquiries. In July, following 12 month's enquiries, a person was arrested and charged under the Crimes (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) Act. This enquiry related to an intention to supply arms and ammunition to a group in Papua New Guinea.

During October, 284kg of cannabis was located on an island in Torres Strait and following extensive enquiries three persons were charged with offences relating to this importation. One of these persons was charged by authorities in PNG. During both operations, excellent co-operation occurred between the AFP, Australian Customs Service,

Queensland Police and authorities in PNG.

Within the Northern Territory a person was charged in April with importation of 7.5kg of heroin through Darwin Airport. Following another investigation, three persons were charged in Darwin in connection with stolen entry visas and manipulation of records, allowing persons from Fiji previously refused entry, to enter Australia.

The complexity of operations within the Region and their effective management was also demonstrated in early August during an operation centred on the Gold Coast. As a result of 12 simultaneously executed search warrants, mostly in the Gold Coast area, the target group of 14 people was arrested. Charges included conspiracy to import drugs, extortion, fraud, theft of motor vehicles and firearms. This operation was notable because of the close co-operation between the AFP, Queensland Police, Customs

and Criminal Justice Commission.

Other investigations have included enquiries into alleged arms and ammunition thefts from the Australian Army in Brisbane resulting in two people being charged, the detection of an alleged Social Security fraud by more than 100 workers in the Bundaberg area, and the recent arrest of a person allegedly connected with importation of 800kg of cannabis during 1986. During November the arrest of a Commonwealth employee for defrauding the Commonwealth of \$330,000 also occurred. Regional members also investigated many other offences involving drugs, official corruption, migration and fraud.

## EASTERN REGION

**O**N 5 February a Dutch couple and two Chinese men appeared in court on drug charges following the alleged discovery by Customs Officers on 24 January of 5.6kg of heroin in the couple's luggage at Sydney airport. During a search of a house in Sydney, \$60,000 in cash was allegedly discovered.

On 7 February a 36-year-old carpenter appeared in court charged with supplying and possessing cannabis resin and laundering money suspected of being the proceeds of crime. His charges followed the alleged discovery by Federal Police of \$5,450,000 in cash, three gold bars, 40 gold Krugerands, and 4 kg of cannabis resin in a garage in Sydney in late January. The man, his brother, and five other men are currently undergoing committal proceedings on money laundering and drug charges in connection with the alleged importation of almost 10 tonnes of cannabis resin in January 1989. Proceeds of crime action has been taken against this group involving more than \$12 million in assets.

The largest known importation of cocaine into Australia --28kgs-- was allegedly detected by Customs Officers inside the struts of a wooden crate containing a car body in Sydney on 13 February. A two-state investigation resulted in the arrest on 23 February of a 51-year-old Spanish man from Sydney and a 42-year-old man from Nerang.

A 32-year-old Sydney man was

As a result of investigations involving complex enquiries, Northern Region has developed an investigative management model. The system features development of targets and investigational priorities by an operational co-ordination committee which then also deploys the required resources from across the AFP functional areas. The model incorporates a number of reporting mechanisms which allow for early detection and resolution of problems encountered during the operation.

Assistant Commissioner Antill anticipates this integrated approach will be further developed and enhance investigations within Northern Region during 1991. •

charged under the Copyright Act with supplying infringing computer copyright software after police searched his house on 11 May and allegedly found more than 1,000 software disks and manuals. It was alleged that the man was advertising for sale the allegedly copied software.

A former postal officer from Charlestown was charged on 5 October with misappropriating \$1,167,454 from a post office in Newcastle. He was charged with a total of 37 offences of misappropriation involving his alleged failure to account for money received at the post office over a 17 month period.

A Japanese businessman wanted in Japan for the alleged contravention of income tax law was arrested



*Part of \$5.5 million seized in Coogee, NSW during February 1990.*

by Federal Police in Sydney on 16 October as he attempted to leave Australia on a cruise ship. An extensive search had been conducted for the man since June 1990 when an extradition warrant had been received from Japan.

From late October to early November Eastern Region moved headquarters from the old TNT building in Redfern to the new purpose-built accommodation in the Sydney CBD. Virtually all of Eastern Region is housed in the building which contains the most modern and extensive facilities utilised in the AFP.

The Proceeds of Crime Unit in Eastern Region at the end of 1990 had restraining orders under POC legislation on assets worth more than \$33 million. •



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ONE of the most significant events to have occurred in the history of policing in the ACT took place in 1990 with the handing over of police powers in the Territory from the Commonwealth to the ACT Government.

In July, the Federal Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs, Senator Michael Tate and the Attorney General in the Alliance Government, Bernard Collaery, signed the documents formally transferring responsibility for policing in the ACT from the Commonwealth to the ACT Government.

The signing installed Assistant Commissioner Brian Bates, Officer-in-Charge of ACT Region, as Chief Police Officer for the Territory.

In accepting his new role, Mr Bates pledged the force would continue to display the high degree of efficiency that already existed in the Territory in the maintenance of law and order.

His pledge was supported by the first results of a survey being conducted over a two-year period to gauge community perceptions of police in the ACT. The Marketing and Research company, Frank Small and Associates (Aust) Pty Ltd, was commissioned to carry out the survey.

Initial results of the survey produced highly favourable ratings including 89 per cent for helpfulness, 84 per cent for politeness and 83 per cent for police response to community concerns.

The Canberra community also rated the ACT Region successful in policing drink driving, armed robbery, murder and sexual assault.

The survey is continuing and the response to each phase will be closely monitored. Attention will be given to those aspects of policing that may attract criticism.

Crime trends in the ACT have followed basically a similar pattern to those which have emerged elsewhere.

Burglary is by far the most prevalent offence in the ACT due to a number of factors, one suggestion being that the physical location of the ACT makes for the easy removal of stolen goods interstate.

One of the most alarming factors



Assistant Commissioner Brian Bates launching the AFP produced booklet *Let's Beat Crime* as part of the inaugural Crime Prevention Week held mid-year.

of the criminal environment has been the emergence of increasing violence. Although there has been only a slight increase in the actual incidence of violent crime and sexual assaults in the ACT, police have concerns about the degree of violence used in the more serious of these crimes.

Police have particular concerns about the number of domestic disputes coming to their notice and the number they are obliged to attend. In the ACT some 500 domestic violence orders are issued each year as a result of serious breakdown in relationships. A tragic consequence of this was the death of a man, his wife and their two children which took place in December as a result of a marriage breakdown.

During May, June and July, police revealed that as many as three different groups of teenagers were roaming a number of suburbs in one part of Canberra late at night to carry out thefts. It was alleged that as many as 180 cars were broken into whilst parked in the driveway of houses in the suburbs. Schools were also targeted with cash and valuables being removed.

A special police task force was set up to investigate the thefts and as a result more than 30 teenagers were identified and either appeared in the Childrens Court or received a severe reprimand.

The Sexual Assault Unit in Canberra, in itself a very successful innovation, was extremely happy with the success of Operation Paradox. This anti-paedophile phone-in was conducted in August along similar lines to Operation NOAH, the anti

drug campaign.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Sexual Assault Unit, Detective Sergeant Fiona Crombie, said much of the information received was excellent, so much so, that prosecutions have commenced in three cases.

Detective Sergeant Crombie said there is every possibility further prosecutions will follow as a result of follow-up investigations based on information received.

She said the success of Operation Paradox presented a strong case for its retention as an annual event.

Emphasis was also placed on police and the community during Crime Prevention Week conducted in the last week of June.

The theme of the week was "Partners in a Safer Community." The aim was to encourage Canberra residents to assist the police in keeping crime in the community to a minimum.

Activities staged during the week included displays at shopping centres, a schools debate, a Blue Light Anti-Drug Disco and an open day at the city police station which was well supported.

One of the real success stories in community policing, and something quite unique to Canberra, Constable Kenny Koala, made special appearances during Crime Prevention Week.

Constable Kenny has built up a strong following among the tiny tots of Canberra and he attracts a lot of attention whenever he appears.

His latest assignment is the fight against drugs, warning children of the dangers of drug use in a book called "Kenny and the Drug Rats".

**E**ARLY in 1990 the AFP in Southern Region was involved in its first major alleged drug importation for the year when a man travelling on a US passport was charged in relation to 5.8kg of cannabis resin.

A couple of weeks later Federal Police charged another man over a cocaine importation. It was alleged he had 150g of the narcotic concealed in his underclothing.

Early in February the Fraud and General Crime Branch members seized about \$50,000 worth of goods ranging from telephone handsets to hand tools and rubbish bins. It was alleged the goods had been stolen from Telecom Australia.

The property involved was sufficient to fill three medium size delivery vans.

In one of the biggest operations of the year, Fraud and General Crime members, accompanied by Officers of the Department of Community Services and Health and Australian Taxation officers investigated 10 nursing homes. More than 100 personnel worked in the field as Federal Police executed warrants in Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo and Seymour.

Early in March two people were charged in relation to arranged marriages between Australians and Fijian Indians. It was alleged the Australians were being paid to agree

to go through a marriage ceremony.

Media interest was stirred in early April when three young Melbourne men were arrested and charged in relation to alleged computer hacking. The Computer Crime Branch claimed the enthusiasts had illegally accessed computer mainframes both here and overseas.

Southern Region Drug Operations Division members also put in the bulk of the spade work on an investigation which resulted in a person being arrested in Eastern Region. A priest who is alleged to have imported 1.6kg of heroin through Sydney late in May was to become the subject of investigations in Melbourne where detectives gathered sufficient evidence to support the laying of charges about a fortnight later in Sydney.

Another traveller was arrested and charged in relation to drugs at Melbourne airport in late June. The man was alleged to have internally concealed a traffickable amount of heroin.

In mid-July four suspects were arrested and charged in relation to an alleged importation of 3.5 kg of cocaine. Those charged were three men and a woman.

In September there appeared to be a rush of extraditions - but it was purely coincidence that three extradition applications all took effect within a week. A man wanted in Hong Kong for fraud worth \$US2.2 million, a United States national wanted in relation to a \$US250,000 fraud and a West German being sought by authorities in relation to



*Two kgs of high grade cocaine concealed in an engine flywheel.*

a \$A150,000 fraud were all extradited and escorted to their respective homelands by law enforcement officers.

Intense media interest surrounded the alleged spillage of oil into Bass Strait on or about 21 May which resulted in the deaths of at least 200 fairy penguins. Federal Police conducted exhaustive investigations into the offence and in late October issued summonses against the Caltex Oil Company and the master of the ship *Arthur Phillip*.

November was the busiest month for the Criminal Assets Investigation Unit since its inception and the proclamation of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The investigators issued no less than 15 restraining orders relating to both fraud and drug matters on assets worth at least \$5 million.

In November, AFP in Melbourne also investigated the importation of half a tonne of compressed cannabis in a shipping container and within days was also investigating the alleged importation through Brisbane to Melbourne of 8kg of cannabis resin.

Late in November seven people were arrested and charged over an alleged conspiracy to import up to 40kg of heroin.

Another investigation which started six years ago and saw the AFP and Victoria Police working in close co-operation, resulted in the trial and sentencing of one of the "Mr Bigs" in the drug trade.

Esmond Arnold Mooseek who dubbed himself 'Mr Oceanic' was found guilty of several offences under both State and Commonwealth Law. The County Court trial Judge sentenced him to life imprisonment under Commonwealth Legislation and ordered that he should serve a minimum sentence of 16 years.

As there is no provision for remis-



*In February, Southern Region Fraud and General Crime seized approximately \$50 000 worth of goods that had been allegedly stolen from Telecom.*

sion under Commonwealth law, Mooseek will spend a total of 16 years behind bars.

The Southern Region property registrar was kept busy in late November recording the contents of hundreds of medium sized cartons containing more than 23,000 items of clothing which allegedly breached the Copyright Act.

A controlled purchase of 280 grams of heroin in the car park at Melbourne Airport late last year, culminated in a Romanian man being sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for this offence and others for which he was on bail at the time of the drug 'buy'.

Ongoing investigations and inquiries stemming from operations during the year kept the Region busy and - if indicators are accurate - they will continue to do so well into this year.

## CENTRAL REGION

**O**PERATIONS within Central Region during the past 12 months have included the arrests of two men allegedly in possession of 100 grams of heroin.

The biggest Fraud and General Crime Division operation for the year occurred in May and involved 21 AFP members in the closely coordinated execution of search warrants of four business and three residential address. During the operation AFP members were assisted

by 16 investigators from the Australian Taxation Office. The operation resulted in four people being charged. In late May and again in late June, Fraud and General Crime detectives seized five computers and thousands of floppy disks as part of an investigation into alleged software piracy of overseas computer programs. The investigation into alleged breaches of copyright is continuing. In August, the AFP joined with Customs Officers to seize a total of six allegedly illegally imported hand guns. It was alleged the weapons had been hidden in two statues sent from the United States.

## WESTERN REGION

**M**AJOR operations in 1990 included the seizure of approximately one tonne of compressed cannabis at Mullaloo Beach, north of Perth, from the yacht *Ariadne* and the arrest of seven persons connected with the importation. Four persons have been convicted to date with sentences ranging from 16 years to four years and nine months. Assets seized totalled approximately \$180,000. One offender was indemnified, with two still to come to trial.

Early in the year a principal of a firm of private investigators was arrested and eventually charged with offences relating to the unlawful disclosure of Telecom silent numbers and personal details. The private investigator and another former investigator were recently convicted and fined, in the Perth District Court. A Telecom officer is being dealt with under Telecom disciplinary regulations.

In February, two 44 gallon drums of compressed cannabis were seized within a self-storage locker at Fremantle (Fort Knox). Total weight of the seizure was 93kg. Two persons were arrested and are presently awaiting trial.

Two persons were arrested and charged in March with importing heroin concealed within bottles of



*Operation Whaler resulted in 997kg of compressed cannabis being recovered from a Perth beach in February 1990.*

Bailey's Irish Cream Liqueur. One person was sentenced to six years gaol, the other absconded on bail. Bail of \$50,000 was forfeited. Cash assets of approximately \$125,000 were seized.

In April three persons arrested in 1989 for the importation of 1.5kg (pure) heroin concealed within a clock were convicted and sentenced. Also in that month, an Australian Taxation Office clerk was arrested, charged and convicted in relation to the supplying of the tax affairs of prominent Perth businessman Laurie Connel to a Perth Sunday newspaper. The clerk was fined \$6,000 and a journalist with the newspaper was fined \$10,000 for contempt after refusing to disclose to the court the identity of the person who supplied him with the taxation office information.

During August, 4.5kg of heroin was seized at Perth International

Airport in unclaimed baggage. After a controlled delivery to Vienna, Austria, two Malaysian nationals were arrested.

Heroin weighing 540g was recovered after a Malay national died at Royal Perth Hospital in September. Approximately 130g was found during the autopsy, with the remainder found beneath the soles of his shoes.

In October approximately 100g of heroin was recovered from a Vietnamese male who imported it internally from Thailand. It took one week for the heroin to pass through his body, and at times he was close to death as a number of condoms containing the heroin burst.

Also that month, private investigators and a Perth businessman arrested and charged with Conspiracy and Telecommunications Interception offences during 1988 finally went to trial. Offences related to the

tapping of telephone conversations of a WA State Member of Parliament and a principal crown witness in a District Court trial. A private investigator and the businessman were sentenced to the maximum three year's imprisonment on Conspiracy to Intercept Telecommunications charges. The convictions are the first of their kind in Australia.

Four Romanian males were arrested during the year in two separate incidents. On each occasion approximately 120-150g of heroin were transported from Melbourne to Perth by motor vehicle for sale in Perth. Two persons involved in the first delivery were convicted and sentenced to six years each. The other two are awaiting trial. •



Part of cannabis haul seized as a result of "Operation Twist" in W.A. Two 40 gallon drums packed with cannabis were concealed in self storage units.

## Commissioner's Certificates

Commissioner's Certificates are awarded as recognition of exceptional performance of duty by members and staff members.

Those presented in 1990 were:

### January

Detective Commander N.C. Hadgkiss  
 Detective Constable E. Grimm  
 Detective Sergeant D.R. Pattle

### April

The Prime Minister's Protection Squad  
 The VIP Protection Squad

### May

Sergeant R. Wicker  
 Sergeant G. Inkpen

### June

Sergeant S.L. Vincent  
 Industrial Relations Division

### August

Detective Sergeant G.F. Gent  
 Detective Sergeant J.R. McGregor  
 Constable S.L. Slater

### October

Superintendent M.W. Bradley  
 Constable D.J. Sweeney

### November

Mrs Dierdre Connors  
 Detective Sergeant A.M. Bassett



D/Sgt G.F. Gent



Constable  
 S.L. Slater



D/Sgt A.M. Bassett



D/Sgt J.R. McGregor



Mrs D. Connors