

Operations Division

Team spirit promotes success

COMBATING gun running and drug trafficking in remote areas of Australia's north is all part of a day's work in AFP's Northern Region.

The OIC, Operations Division, Commander John Adams, with command responsibility for operational activities across the Region said he was constantly impressed with the quality, the volume and the diverse nature of work undertaken by the Region's members.

He acknowledged that the changing and challenging criminal environment required the AFP to have a multi-skilled, committed and flexible workforce able to deal with the increased levels of crime committed against the Commonwealth.

He appreciated that some work was breaking new ground, such as the application of new environmental legislation and the focus on the proceeds of crime.

This was in addition to the high volume of priority investigations into illegal drugs, organised crime, and fraud and general crime. He said the thrust of the Region's operational effort has been supported by a high level intelligence capability.

"The Region takes in a huge area of Australia which presents particular challenges and requires innovative policing to ensure resources are effectively deployed to provide a high level of federal policing presence across northern Australia.

"I am aware that many investigations require great dedication and personal sacrifice. I know that those who work in the more isolated outstations face particular difficulties in their work and I am also mindful of the fact that when a brief is prepared and a matter goes to court, much of the effort behind the investigation is not always visible," Commander Adams said.

"I know and appreciate that there

are many members and staff members who contribute to operations by providing operational support and administrative back-up. I want them to know that they are appreciated and their work is invaluable.

"I'm pleased that we have such a good team spirit in the Region which extends to other areas of the AFP when we work together in achieving our national objectives. Co-ordination and co-operation is essential to effective law enforcement and pleasingly, this is reflected in relationships with other State and Commonwealth agencies," he said.

"The Region's efforts are reflected in the results achieved which are a tribute to all concerned. I know the quality of people in the Region and that they will continue to perform

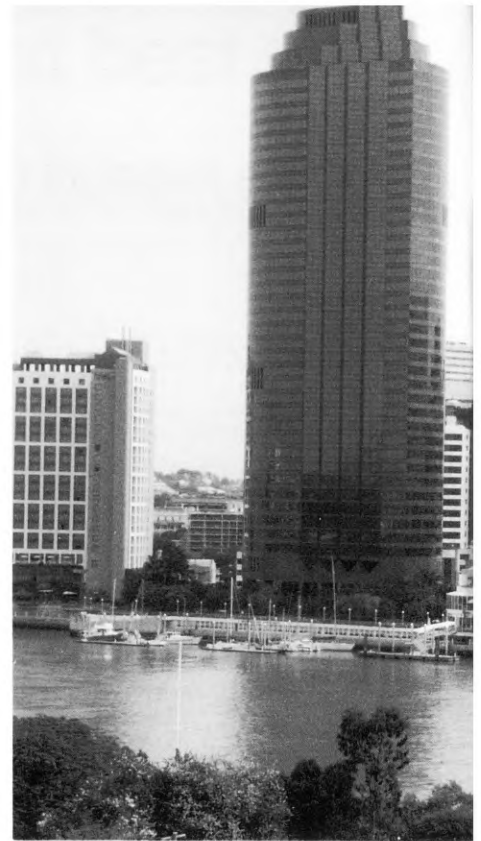


Photo by Sergeant Jim Couzens

to their very best. I am pleased to acknowledge their efforts and thank them for those efforts and overall performance over a sustained period," Commander Adams concluded.

Electronic and Forensic Services

Skills always in demand

THE Region is extremely well serviced by the Police Technical and Physical Evidence Units.

The high level operational activity across the Region places great demand on these essential support services but, while their services are always in demand, the Units have always been able to meet the load placed on them.

On many occasions the members found it difficult to spread their limited numbers from Ballina in the south to the far north west of the Region but through their professionalism and capacity to rise to the task, they play an integral role across the Region. In addition to provid-

ing services to operational Branches in the Region, the Units have also provided assistance in a number of national operations.

The Units have now moved to new accommodation which provides first class facilities. The Police Technical Unit is headed by Superintendent Neil Lake. Sergeant Les Bush, who recently arrived in the Region from the Forensic Services Division in Canberra is the Physical Evidence Unit OIC.

The Region is well serviced by these two specialist Units and looks forward to them continuing to provide the high level operational support and technical advice.