

## Commander's message

# Getting the job done

By Commander Don McCulloch

**T**O work in Central Region is a very fulfilling experience for those lucky enough to be deployed here.

As the smallest region numerically, it is essential there be a "coming together" on the part of all personnel to achieve regional and corporate objectives. That this occurs is evident by the number and magnitude of operations undertaken and other tasks and functions completed by the region, a situation which is an accurate testament to the qualities and calibre of the personnel involved.

I frequently see instances of resourcefulness and application by members and staff members to "get the job done" despite limitations on resources, or accommodation inconvenience. This ability to pull together has meant the development of a very experienced multi-skilled workforce which has been able to accept and adapt to the many changes in the AFP in the recent past.

That we enjoy the confidence and respect of a significant number of client departments and improving relationships with others, speaks volumes for the efforts made in this regard. Our ongoing relationships with the state police and other federal law enforcement agencies are good, we are able to work jointly with few problems, having established the credibility so necessary for productive liaison.

A significant challenge facing Central Region is to combat the perception, held by some who have not had the good fortune to work here, that the region has or is likely to become moribund through lack of personnel movement.

Recognising that there can be no place in a dynamic AFP for people who do not possess contemporaneous and relevant skills, and given the previous application and present commitment of Central Region per-

sonnel, there is every reason to believe Central Region's members will meet this challenge successfully.

While the pleasant climate, relaxed life style and cheaper cost of living enjoyed in Adelaide, are major factors in why this experienced workforce remains almost static, to place too much emphasis on these factors would be to create a false picture and detract from what I perceive as the greatest strength of Central Region.

Even though we do not enjoy the high profile or have as modern a building or as pleasant working con-



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ditions as some regions, we do have a valuable, committed workforce of very experienced personnel, who apply themselves to their task with enthusiasm.

Central Region is prepared for the future and willing "to get the job done".

## Central has stability and commitment

**H**EADQUARTERED on the edge of downtown Adelaide, Central Region polices Commonwealth law in South Australia and is lead by Commander Don McCulloch.

Working to Commander McCulloch are the Fraud and General Crime Branch and the Intelligence and Drug Operations Branch.

Central Region's high rate of police and staff retention has created a bank of expertise able to tackle investigations that in recent years have included the theft of 600 million-year-old fossils, major drug busts and complex frauds.

Many of the region's members can trace their police careers back to when the Commonwealth Police provided security for the rocket testing range at Woomera and when South Australia administered the Northern Territory. Other members have been drawn to South Australia more recently by the charm, history and way of life that has made South Australia a popular destination with domestic and international tourists.

"Once a member accepts a posting to Central Region they generally want to stay," said Detective Superintendent Brian Brinkler.

The region has a strong team ethos which carries through to leisure-time activities. Central Region has competed in the local police basketball competition for many years, fielding a mixed gender team with ages ranging from the eager, early twenties to fighting fit fifties.

The region's members have involved themselves in community activities at all levels including club swimming, the Scouting movement, the Youth Hostels Association and administration in grade football.

It was a Central Region member who co-ordinated the AFP's first national Aboriginal Cultural Awareness seminar at Barton College in April of this year.

Central Region takes seriously the AFP commitment to higher education, currently having a full quota enrolled in studies under the Tertiary Assistance Scheme.