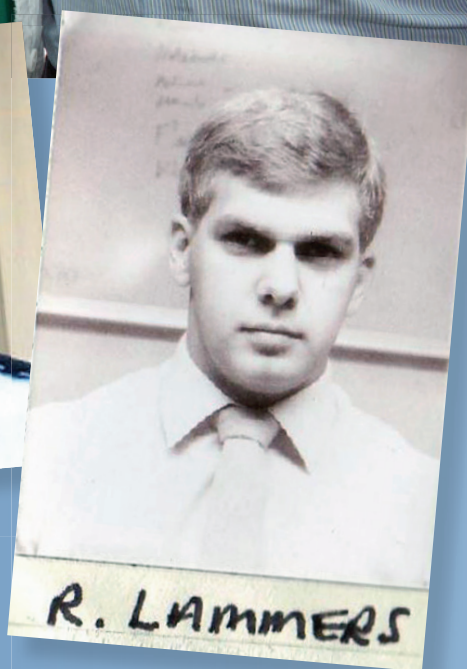
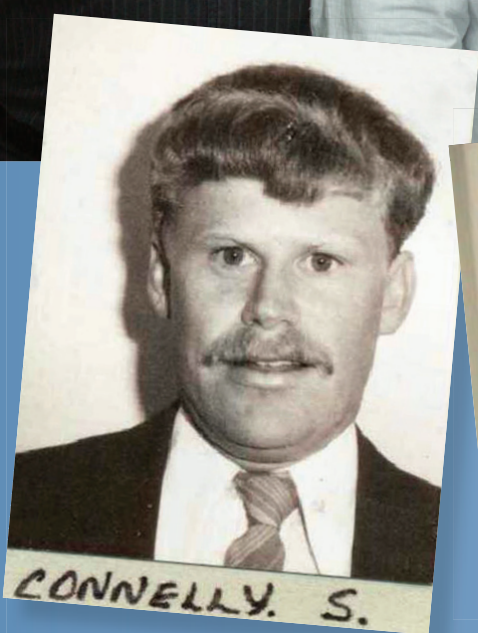


Farewell

Retiring ACs share their love of community policing



Last month the AFP farewelled three of its most senior officers with the departure of Assistant Commissioners Rudi Lammers, Mandy Newton and Shane Connelly, after combined careers of almost 100 years with the organisation.

At the time of leaving, all three spoke fondly of their years with the AFP and singled out their time involved in community policing as their career highlight.

Chief Police Officer ACT, Rudi Lammers, joined the AFP in 1982, starting his career at the city police station, spending 20 years working on the streets of Canberra before a move to national operations.

"I enjoyed every moment of getting to know the community and working closely with them; feeling their emotions and supporting the victims of crime is something I'll never forget," Assistant Commissioner Lammers says.

"Without a doubt the highlight was being appointed CPO and returning to community police work. Being able to run your own police force independently is both humbling and it has made me very proud.

"I am leaving the AFP a very happy, very proud and very contented man."

In his retirement, AC Lammers has plans to spend more time with his family and enjoying more time on the water, fishing and sailing.

Assistant Commissioner Mandy Newton joined the AFP in 1983 and aside from a six-year break between 1996 and 2002, when she worked with ACTEW and the Australian Tax Office, she enjoyed a varied and rewarding 28-year career with the organisation.

"I had many career highlights, working in juvenile aid, supporting communities in need in Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Pacific, dealing with the aftermath of the Canberra bushfires, developing the Aviation Portfolio and managing economic and special operations," Assistant Commissioner Newton says.

"But the absolute highlight was in community policing in the ACT, where I was very proud to be working with the community and seeing the difference police made every day to other people's lives whilst serving as Deputy CPO."

Assistant Commissioner Newton says she hopes, in some small way she has been able to inspire girls and young women, in Australia and overseas to consider a career in policing.

In her final year with the AFP, Assistant Commissioner Newton has played a significant role in the cultural reform work, resulting in the report by former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick.

"It's fantastic and important work. At the end of the day it's all about us being fair and reasonable with each other in the AFP, accepting that we are all different, allowing for those differences, and treating each other with respect."

Assistant Commissioner Newton says she was excited about retirement and spending more time with her two great loves outside of policing, surfing and golfing.

Assistant Commissioner Shane Connelly served with the AFP for nearly 33 years, and still remembers signing on in early 1984 as a police motorcyclist.

On retiring, he reflected on the changing nature of policing and the major challenges the AFP has faced during his tenure.

"We had to tackle the 'heroin wars' of the late 90s when we attacked the supply chain vigorously and had a big impact.

"With September 11 our entire world changed, especially for this national security agency.

"We had to respond swiftly to the Bali bombings, the MH17 tragedy, and to devastating tsunamis and other natural disasters."

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says terrorism and cybercrime remain the AFP's biggest ongoing and future challenges.



“Back in the early days when I was a young detective, assaults were physical and the injuries would generally heal in a matter of weeks. With a cyber, or virtual assault, the harm and the pain can go on for many years.”

Assistant Commissioner Connelly says he believes the AFP is ready for generational change.

“It’s time for the next generation of AFP officers to make their mark, and I wish them all the best.”

Like his fellow retiring colleagues, Assistant Commissioner Connelly loves the ocean and looks forward to more fishing, sailing, surfing and skiing in the years ahead, including his first competitive race in the Sydney to Hobart classic later this month.

AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin wished his colleagues well for their future plans.

“I know I speak for hundreds of AFP members, past and present, in thanking Mandy, Rudi and Shane for their incredible dedication and commitment to the AFP over more than three decades,” Commissioner Colvin said.

“On a personal note, I thank them for their unstinting support and friendship over many years.

“Their departures from the AFP leave a significant hole in terms of experience and policing wisdom and we wish them well in the next phase of their lives. All three have well and truly earned a long and very happy retirement.”

**View the farewell video
for each Assistant Commissioner.**



Farewell
Assistant Commissioner
Mandy Newton



Farewell Assistant Commissioner
Shane Connelly



Farewell CPO
Rudi Lammers