



On Duty

On Duty – Celebrating a Centenary of Policing in Canberra



1965



1946



2008



1927



1979



2013



1968

Celebrating a Centenary of Policing in Canberra



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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the men and women who have served the ACT over the past 100 years. Your commitment to maintaining law and order and your willingness to risk your life for the protection of others is both selfless and truly remarkable.

For those who have passed, particularly those who have died in the line of duty, may you rest in peace, and may your courageous efforts be remembered always.





Acknowledgments

Photographic and document copyright

On Duty — *Celebrating a Centenary of Policing in Canberra* was created to commemorate Canberra’s Centenary in March 2013. The publication is the result of historical newspaper clippings (particularly *The Canberra Times*), annual reports, media releases, and a range of corporate publications, including *Platypus*, *ACT Policing News*, *Australian Federal Police — The First Thirty Years*, and various Australian Federal Police Association journals.

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And finally, to three of the originals, Denis McDermott, Ian Broomby and Max Bradley, featured in this book, for reviewing the publication, and ensuring where possible, it provided an accurate account of the amazing history of which they were part.

Marina Simoncini

Coordinator — Media and Public Engagement
ACT Policing, Australian Federal Police

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Commissioner's foreword



Having spent much of my early policing career in the ACT, the celebration of Canberra's 100th year has a great deal of meaning for me. The creation of this public record of policing in Canberra has served to illustrate that since the foundation of the national capital, men and women have come from all over the country to police the ACT and have tended to stay, raise families and become part of the local community. This pattern, of course, parallels the growth and diversity of Canberra's population since its inception.

.....
AFP Commissioner Tony Negus APM


Today's AFP upholds a commitment to provide the people of Canberra with a dynamic, high-quality policing service delivered by more than 950 dedicated officers and staff. Concurrently, the broader AFP provides policing at a national and international level through its state-based and overseas offices, its 6500-strong workforce, with shared values, integrity and commitment, protecting and serving the nation. It is almost 35 years since the formation of the AFP in 1979 but this document shows that while a comparatively young organisation, the AFP's origins and traditions are linked to the very first days of Canberra. While initially a rural region, policed by officers of the NSW Police Force, as the building of Canberra gained momentum and the population rapidly grew, the need for a dedicated police service became apparent.



These first 10 police officers were under the command of NSW Police Sergeant Philip James Cook, who had been hand-picked to lead the new service. Harold E. Jones was promoted from the then Director of the Commonwealth Investigation Branch (CIB) and Security Section but retained those titles in his elevation to the Chief of Commonwealth Police, the forerunner to the modern role of Chief Police Officer of the ACT.

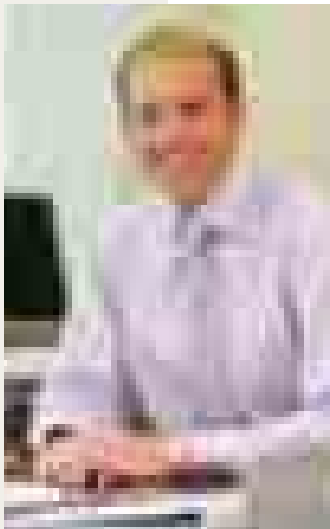
The diversity of Jones's law enforcement career mirrors that of many officers who progress through the ranks of ACT Policing and whose service often encompasses broader national AFP duties and experiences. Jones investigated a variety of crimes against the Commonwealth including fraud, slave trafficking and subversive activities. The CIB also had a charter to protect women and children and to investigate obscene publications. Jones moved to Canberra in 1927 and his residence still stands in the grounds of the Australian National University.

The synergy which exists between the AFP and the ACT is a proven and effective relationship, and a continuation of the close link between law enforcement and the local community since policing began in the Territory. Being headquartered in Canberra, and having a large number of our members resident here cements that relationship even further. Whether our AFP officers serve the Territory or the nation, by their professional and private conduct they provide a valuable contribution to the social fabric of the ACT.


T.W. Negus APM
Commissioner



A message from the Minister



In celebrating Canberra’s centenary, it is fitting that the role of the police and their service to the Territory is expressed to a wider audience, both as an historical account and an acknowledgment of the important role police continue to play in building a cohesive and responsible community.

Our national capital deserves the highest standards of policing. ACT Policing’s thorough and exhaustive training regime, mentoring by senior officers ‘on the road’ and a high

degree of accountability deliver admirable outcomes for the ACT time and again. This makes us the envy of many other jurisdictions for our relatively low crime rates and continued downward trend in many areas.

The development of ACT Policing as a business unit of the AFP, and its established identity as Canberra’s own community policing service is reflective of how, as a people and a national capital, we have grown and flourished over the past 100 years.

The Australian Federal Police has been providing quality police services to the ACT since 1979. While it is a soundly-based business arrangement with clearly defined objectives, directions and reviews, over time it has also evolved into a relationship in which both parties enjoy a shared commitment.

As a Territory government, we acknowledge that the AFP has wider national and international policing obligations. However, these have never encroached on nor diminished its commitment to the ACT.

The people of Canberra can draw great comfort from the fact that the AFP stands as a ready reserve of surge capacity or specialist capability in the event that the ACT needs immediate supplementation.

I thank the AFP and ACT Policing for their continued commitment to the people of Canberra. Their ongoing efforts to ensure Canberra is a safer city for those who work and live here is greatly appreciated by the ACT Government and the wider Canberra community.

Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

A message from the Chief Police Officer



An effective police service is one which genuinely connects with the community it serves. As the community policing arm of the Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing is fortunate to enjoy that close relationship with the Canberra community, and a high level of connectivity with it over many years.

Our officers and staff live and work here in the ACT so they have a sense of ownership and pride in protecting and serving their community.

As members of the AFP, we can also tap into significant capabilities.

No other Australian police jurisdiction enjoys the benefit of drawing so easily on a pool of policing experience that includes, in addition to high-end criminal investigations, world-class forensics, offshore capacity building, high-tech crime disruption, counter-terrorism, tactical operations, and an expansive range of other capabilities which are the hallmarks of an effective and contemporary policing service.

This publication, which is an important historical account of the evolution of community policing in the ACT, charts our growth from the days of an officer on horseback, to a modest 10-man team during Canberra’s founding days, and most recently, to a modern, dynamic organisation which models itself on the best policing practices from around the world.

However, the greatest of resources means little without the support of the public and the full confidence of the ACT Government.

Both are vital components to our success. The Purchase Agreement between the ACT Government and the AFP regularly reviews the formal arrangements between the two parties and sets the agenda for the years ahead. While ours is a business arrangement, it is one based on the AFP’s core values of accountability, commitment, excellence, integrity, fairness and mutual trust, with a vision to fight crime together and win.

As we enter our second century of policing in the ACT, we will look to build and grow that relationship so as to best deliver the highest standards of policing to the people of Canberra.

Roman Quaedvlieg APM
Chief Police Officer for the ACT



On duty in the Territory

Policing in the ACT has had a ‘chequered’ history.

While the Federal Capital Territory boundaries were defined in 1911, life in the rural district, often referred to as the Limestone Plains, continued much as it had since the first white settlers came to the area in the 1820s.

The settlers established homesteads with names familiar to the modern Canberra landscape; among them Duntroon, Acton, Glenloch, Woden, Tuggeranong and Lanyon.

Once patrolled and protected by members of the NSW Police Force, as the region’s population grew and developed, so did the requirement for a more conspicuous presence of law and order.

A police station was established in Queanbeyan in 1863 with the services of seven policemen under the control of the superintendent in Cooma.

Though the area had seen its fair share of bushranger history, by the early 1900s such crimes were a thing of the past.

The original court for the area was set up on 23 February 1838 in temporary structures at Acton, then a small rural property on the Molonglo River. The court and police premises, which were described in some of the early accounts as a hut or barn, were below standard even for those days. When convicted of a crime, offenders were moved to Dodsworth, the private property of Captain Faunce, who was the local magistrate from about 1839 to 1850. Once sentenced, offenders were sent to Goulburn jail. [From 1976, the Belconnen Remand Centre operated as a remand facility for the Territory, with convicted, long-term ACT inmates still dispatched into the NSW prison system.

.....
The value of assigning patrol zones to officers was identified from the earliest years of policing in Canberra. The patrol map from the 1920s identifies specific zones in which officers were required to proactively patrol
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

On 11 September 2008, Canberra opened its own jail, the Alexander Maconochie Centre in Symonston.]

The lockup and court house were moved from Acton in 1853 to William Hunt’s Kent Hotel in Queanbeyan. The magistrates performed their duties on the first floor with the lockup on the ground floor, while a police barracks was established in Antill Street.

The Queanbeyan Court House complex was opened on 1 January 1861 at a cost of £1575. Land was acquired in present day Farrer Place, extending all the way to Campbell Street. The new complex was built of stone with two wings. Each of the wings housed the court and police offices; the actual court house occupying the middle room. The back portion of the court house contained a watch house, with separate female and male cells. The present day bowling green and croquet lawn was once the police horse paddocks.

In 1913 when Canberra was named, the sole-officer Ginninderra Police Station was the only police station in the newly declared national capital, manned by the NSW Police Force.

Built in 1882, the Ginninderra Police Station was a significant example of a small self-contained rural station, complete with lockup, residence and stables.

The police assigned to the station patrolled, on horseback, an area of 16 858 acres taking in Jeir to the north, Wallaroo, Mulligan’s Flat, Gungahlin, upper Canberra, Weetangera and the Hall district. The station residence was a conspicuous hub for the maintenance of law and order in the local area and was often used as overnight accommodation for prisoners and officers en route to and from the Queanbeyan Police Barracks.



On New Year’s Day 1905, while under the command of Mounted Constable Herbert Hallet, the station was damaged by a bushfire. The original building was reconstructed in 1906 and still stands today as an ACT Heritage Listed Building, just outside Hall.

The station was permanently closed in 1927 when police duties for the ACT were transferred from the NSW Police Force to the newly formed Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory).

In 1922, the NSW Police Force opened a station at Molonglo, where the industrial precinct of Fyshwick now stands. It was then a settlement mainly to house the growing workforce needed to build the national capital, but had been established originally as an internment camp for German nationals toward the end of World War I.

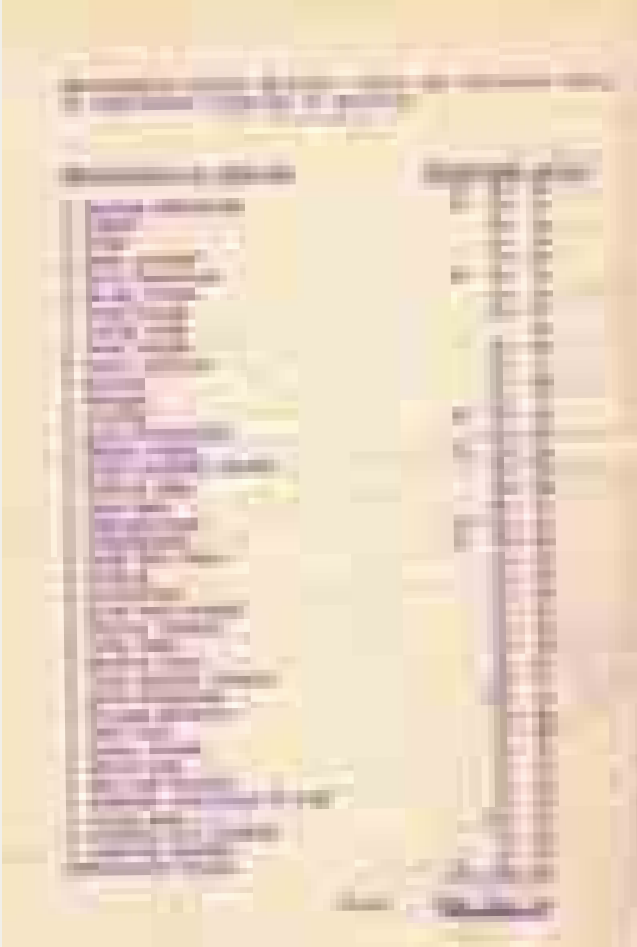
While still under NSW jurisdiction, the administrative functions of the Molonglo Settlement Police Station moved to accommodation at Acton in 1926 with the lockup remaining at Molonglo.

NSW Police continued to patrol the ACT until 1927, the year of the opening of the Provisional Parliament House, and the year Canberra welcomed its very own police force.

The Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) was staffed by 11 men: 10 former Commonwealth Peace Officers and the former NSW Police Sergeant, Philip J Cook, who had been in charge of the NSW Police Force contingent in Canberra up until this time.

Colonel Harold Edward Jones, of the Commonwealth Investigations Branch, was responsible for the men, and instigated the formation of the Federal Capital Territory police as a stand-alone force to enforce local laws, and to guard Government House.

The force soon changed its name to Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory), and in 1957 it formally adopted the name, and badge, of the Australian Capital Territory Police (more commonly referred to as ACT Police).



A defining moment in the evolution of community policing in the national capital occurred on 19 October 1979 when the Commonwealth Government’s restructured Australian national policing services came into being. ACT Police amalgamated with the Commonwealth Police, and the Federal Narcotics Bureau, to form the Australian Federal Police.

Although the catalyst to establish the AFP was the Sydney Hilton Hotel bombing in 1978, there had been discussions for some time about creating a new ‘Australia Police’; to amalgamate all Commonwealth law enforcement authorities, and incorporating the policing of the ACT, which at the time remained under Commonwealth legislation. And so, within the AFP, today’s ACT Policing was born.

.....

The one-officer NSW police station opened at Ginninderra in 1882. The premises later fell within the Federal Capital Territory border declared in 1911, which located it just outside the village of Hall — circa 1906
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

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A list, providing estimated values, of the Government property held at Ginninderra Police Station and used by the presiding officer — circa 1920
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



Throughout the years there have been several enquiries and reviews into the delivery of policing services to the ACT, with ongoing questions predominantly centering on the benefits and disadvantages of a stand-alone, non-aligned service for the Territory. None however, have demonstrated a more effective operating model than that which has been in place for more than 30 years.

Since 1979, ACT Policing has stood proud as the community policing arm of the AFP, and the AFP is equally proud of being an integral part of the community in which it serves.

It is unlikely that those original police officers, patrolling on horseback across the plains and valleys with rations, ammunition and bedroll, could have envisaged the dramatic way in which their profession — and the community it serves — would be transformed over the years to become the modern and dynamic police service it is today.

ACT Policing has now developed into a highly effective service of 950-plus members — often leading Australia in many progressive initiatives. Through the Winchester Police Centre headquarters in Belconnen and five district police stations, ACT Policing continues to provide the full spectrum of policing services to the people of Canberra, within a national law enforcement agency of 6500-plus dedicated members.

For more than 100 years, ACT Policing, however formed or named, has been part of the region’s story, its history bound with the major events that have shaped the community.

But in many ways the tale is only partly told.

On Duty: Celebrating a Centenary of Policing in Canberra commemorates Canberra’s centenary and the role policing has played in the ACT over the past 100 years. The book features a selection of 100 ‘snapshots’, of the events, milestones, significant accounts and achievements that have contributed to the evolution of policing in the ACT.

The people too, have changed. But in often difficult and trying circumstances, each new generation of recruits has demonstrated a strong commitment to the organisation’s goal of protecting and serving the people of Canberra, and of Australia.

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The Queanbeyan Court House and Police Station administered justice for the Federal Capital Territory until facilities were established in Acton in 1930
Image courtesy of Paul Batista, NSW Police Force



1913–1938



The early years

In 1913 when Australia's national capital was named Canberra, the NSW Police Force patrolled the region.

The original police force for the ACT was formed in 1927, soon after the opening of Canberra's Provisional Parliament House.

When Colonel Harold Edward Jones pulled on his hat in September that year for the official photograph of the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) he had just 11 officers under his command.

Colonel H. E. Jones and his men had officially relieved the NSW Police Force detachment as the official police presence in the national capital.

The Territory's new police force was made up of one (former) NSW Police sergeant, Philip J. Cook, and 10 Commonwealth Peace Officers.

The NSW Police Force had served faithfully — in what was then largely a rural region — since 1882. They served on after the official naming of Canberra in 1913 until Colonel H. E. Jones assumed command.

While Canberra was very much in its initial years of establishing itself as a national capital, its growing population would eventually see the need for an expanding police service.

This first Commonwealth police service was renamed as the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) in 1938.

1913

Canberra is named



On 12 March 1913, at the Foundation Day Ceremony where Lady Denman announced Canberra as the name of Australia's capital city, 30 mounted and foot police were brought in for crowd control and to provide a ceremonial presence for the auspicious occasion.

The region was not accustomed to such a large presence of police. At the time there was only a handful of permanent NSW police working from Queanbeyan to Canberra's south, and one NSW police officer in Canberra's north, stationed at the Ginninderra Police Station.

It was also in 1913 that accommodation cottages were built as married quarters at Acton. Only two of these buildings survive today, one having acquired the name 'Constable's Cottage' in recognition of its use as a police residence from 1927.

The final police officer to move into the cottage was Sergeant Robert Hilton who became its resident officer in 1937. When Constable Hilton died in the mid-1960s, his wife Mary remained in the building until 1990 thereby inadvertently protecting it from redevelopment.

.....
The heritage-listed Constable's Cottage built in 1913 still stands as a reminder of a police presence around the formative Canberra community — 2013
.....

Mounted police patrol the site at Canberra's naming ceremony on 12 March 1913
Image courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive



1922

Canberra's first policemen

The first policeman stationed in Canberra — badge number 9155 — was NSW Police Constable John W. Stuart, who arrived at Molonglo in 1922 to take over the NSW Police Force-run station. He subsequently left Canberra in April 1923.

Constable Stuart was replaced by Constable First Class Philip J. Cook in May 1923, who transferred to the Molonglo Settlement Police Station. He was one of the first constables to be stationed there.

In July 1925 Constable Cook was promoted to Sergeant Third Class of the NSW Police Force. By this time the police establishment had grown. The ‘construction’ of the national capital was in full swing, and the NSW police at Queanbeyan and Canberra had stirring experiences with the ‘keeping of law and order’ throughout the Territory.

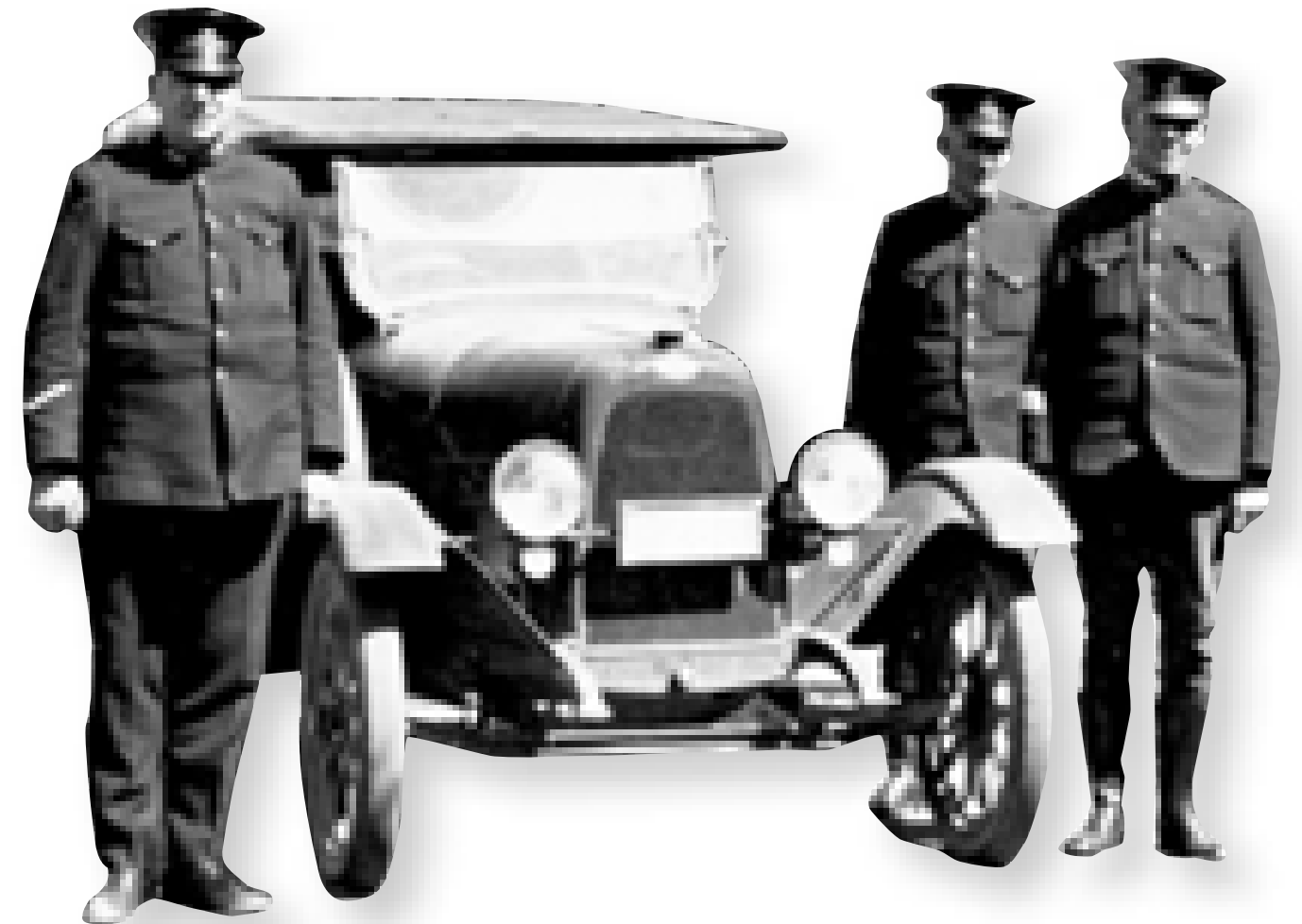
In December 1926 the police station was removed from Molonglo, which then became a police lockup; and was established at Acton. Sergeant Cook was the first officer-in-charge at the new station.

In 1927 when the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) was formed, Sergeant Cook transferred from the NSW Police Force with the rank of Sergeant First Class to head up Canberra’s first local police service. He was not sworn in as a member of the new force however until January 1929, and continued to be paid by the NSW Police Force until that time.

.....
Sub-Inspector Philip J. Cook’s framed retirement photo
— 1936

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

Sergeant Philip J. Cook (seated second from left) with officials of the Police Association of the Federal Capital Territory in front of the police station door — 1936
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



Having joined the police force in 1901, Sergeant Cook retired from the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) in December 1936.

On the eve of his retirement, and in recognition of his service, Chief Officer Colonel H. E. Jones — head of the Commonwealth Investigations Branch and responsible for the formation of the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) — promoted Sergeant Cook to the rank of honorary Sub-Inspector.

Chief Officer Colonel H. E. Jones, who had brought Sergeant Cook to Canberra, said that during the years in which Sergeant Cook had been in charge of the station he had “... been very definitely and closely associated with the activities of the city, and had seen rapid and extensive changes in the area. He had at all times proved himself a zealous officer ... and maintained public confidence in the force.”

Constable (First Class) E. S. Bailey was promoted to Sergeant as Cook’s successor.

Cook died in Sydney in September 1949.

.....
Sergeant Philip J. Cook (far right) with other members of the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) — 1927
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



Molonglo Settlement Police Station 1922



In 1922 the Molonglo Settlement Police Station was opened, on top of the hill where Molonglo Mall and the industrial precinct of Fyshwick now stands.

It was a settlement mainly for the growing workforce needed to build the national capital, but had been established originally as an internment camp for German nationals towards the end of World War I.

The administrative building was there to keep order among the growing number of workers and new residents arriving to establish Canberra's expanding inner suburbs. A brick lockup was added to the Molonglo Settlement Police Station to hold offenders until they could be taken to the Queanbeyan Court.

With Canberra growing rapidly — a population of more than 5000 was policed from Molonglo — along with the added prospect of more complete legislation for the ACT, a more central headquarters at Acton was being prepared for an expanded workforce.

In 1926, while still under NSW jurisdiction, the administrative functions of the Molonglo Settlement Police Station moved to Acton with a lockup remaining at Molonglo until 1930. It was then demolished and replaced with a lock-up built adjoining the Acton Court House in preparation for the establishment of the Court of Petty Sessions in the ACT that year.

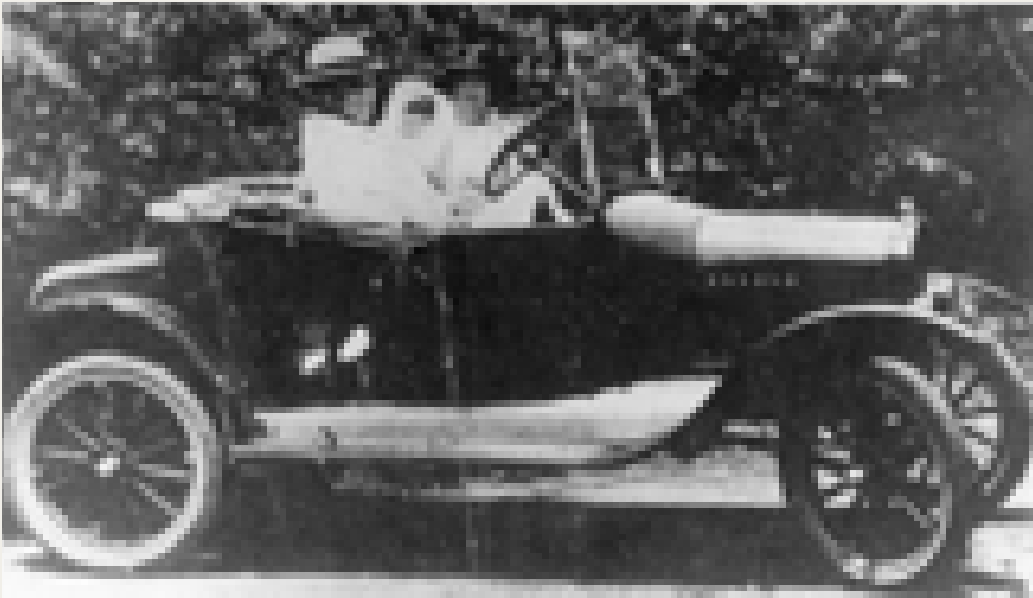
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Sergeant Philip J. Cook outside the Molonglo Settlement Police Station — circa 1923
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
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Molonglo Settlement Police Station — circa 1922
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
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Molonglo Settlement Police Station cells — circa 1922
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1923

Canberra's first
unofficial policewoman



The first record of a woman playing an active role in policing in the ACT was that of the spouse of Sergeant Philip J. Cook — one of the ACT's first policemen.

Mrs Patience Cook came to Canberra in 1923 with her husband and daughter, and she actively assisted him during those years. She assumed his role during his absences and on one occasion, was responsible for the capture of two female offenders.

In the early years there were many wives of serving police officers who assisted their husbands in their day-to-day work. Much of this work was unpaid and largely unrecognised, even though the community relied upon it.

Sergeant Philip J. Cook with his wife and daughter
— circa 1923
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1925

Peace Officers



In 1925 the *Peace Officer Act* was introduced after NSW Labor Premier Jack Lang refused to allow NSW police to serve Commonwealth warrants on striking Sydney dock workers. Under the legislation, the newly sworn Peace Officers served the disputed warrants, however the unionists appealed to the High Court and won.

The 19-appointed Peace Officers were then put to work investigating breaches of federal tax and electoral laws, examining applications for old-age pensions, and undertaking process serving for the Solicitor General.

When Canberra's first dedicated police force was formed in 1927, 10 Peace Officers were sent from Sydney to make up the 11-man team.

The Peace Officers who transferred to the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) were Acting Sergeant William Joseph Tandy, Peace Officer William Osborne Fellowes, Peace Officer Alfred David Davies, Peace Officer Edwin Salisbury Bailey, Peace Officer Charles William Priestly, Peace Officer Augustus Edmund Weiss, Peace Officer Roy Leonard Hughes, Peace Officer Ivan Charles Perriman, Peace Officer Roy Sherbourne Brodribb, and Peace Officer Edward Bresnan.

Each officer took his baton and two pairs of boots with him on transfer to Canberra.

The remaining Peace Officers were dispersed to other Commonwealth duties.

Ten Peace Officers made up Canberra's first police service in 1927, pictured standing outside the Acton Court House and police station in 1930
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1926

Ginninderra Police Station 'Duty Book'



The Ginninderra Police Station was a one-officer station throughout its existence, where there was a residence attached to the station and a paddock for the police horse.

The weekly entries in the first-known 'Duty Book' in the ACT repeatedly state "district quiet, no serious crime reported this week" and "there is fair dry grass feed in the police paddock at this station."

Although the Ginninderra Police Station closed in 1927 the book was later used at other stations to record minor and major crimes, and any resultant action taken.

Now, calls received, police action taken and other logs, are updated electronically in real-time in a central case management system. In-car computers were introduced in the mid-2000s to enable timely recording of incidents by police while on mobile patrol.



Ginninderra Police Station Duty Book — 1926
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Entries made in the first-known Duty Book in the ACT
— 1926
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1927

Opening of Parliament House

Parliament House began operation on 9 May 1927 as a temporary base for the Commonwealth Parliament after its relocation from Melbourne to the new capital, Canberra.

Known formerly as the Provisional Parliament House, it was the house of Parliament of Australia from 1927 to 1988 which, for the ACT, brought with it the responsibilities of escorting visiting foreign dignitaries, ceremonial duties and the all-important role of protecting the dignity of the parliament and its officers when protests and rallies inevitably came to the capital.

Police from all over Australia — including NSW Police who at the time policed the ACT — attended the official opening to ensure security measures were in place and managed appropriately.

The opening of what is now Old Parliament House took place just prior to the introduction of Canberra's first dedicated (and local) police force — the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory).

Police (all from interstate) at the opening of the Provisional
Parliament House — 1927
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1927

Until 1927 the NSW Police Force policed the region, in what was mostly rural bushland, aside from the small but slowly expanding capital city of Canberra.

Canberra's own police force

By the mid-1920s plans were well underway to move several Commonwealth Government departments, as well as Parliament, to Canberra, and many public buildings were on the verge of being constructed.

In 1926, the Commonwealth Attorney-General determined that policing in the Territory should be performed by a local force, and in 1927, the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) was formed. It was staffed by 11 men, 10 former Peace Officers and Sergeant Philip J. Cook, who had been in charge of the NSW Police Force contingent in Canberra up to that time.

The force soon changed its name to the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory), and in 1957 it formally adopted the name Australian Capital Territory Police (ACT Police).

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The original 10 constables of the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) after being sworn-in on 28 September 1927, standing outside the East Block Building in Parkes, ACT. Front row (left to right): Major General Charles Cox (Senator for NSW), Sir John Butters (Chief Commissioner for the Federal Capital Commission), Sir John Latham (Commonwealth Attorney-General), Sergeant Philip J. Cook, Constables E. S. Bailey, A. D. Davies, A. Weiss, R. L. Hughes, E. Bresnan and Chief Officer of Police Colonel Harold E. Jones. Back row (left to right): Constables C. W. Priestley, W. O. Fellowes, W. Tandy, I. C. Perriman, R. S. Brodribb and NSW Constable J. W. Bottrell.

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1930

Acton Court House and police station

In 1930 the Acton Court House was opened, and for a period of time, doubled as Canberra's police station. This meant that it was no longer necessary to take offenders by motorcycle and sidecar to Queanbeyan Petty Sessions for hearings.



The Molonglo Settlement Police Station was abandoned in the same year and remained a police lockup.

Police occupied the site where the National Museum of Australia now stands. The building was the original homestead of Joshua Moore, who was one of the original settlers in the district. The building had been erected in 1824, more than 100 years before being renovated into a combination court house and police station.

Sergeant Philip J. Cook was the first officer in charge at the new building.

The strength of the force grew to 20 by 1937, and in 1940 the old police station was demolished to allow the Royal Canberra Hospital to be built. Police then occupied a wing at the nearby Hotel Acton (today's Diamant Hotel).

The Acton Court House was the main station used by Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) until the opening of Canberra Police Station on Northbourne Avenue (often referred to as the Jolimont building) in 1946.

The general Magistrates Court also moved out of the Acton building into the Jolimont headquarters in 1946, allowing 'Hotel Acton' to revert to its former use as a guest house.

.....

Entrance to the ACT Court House and police station

— circa 1930

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1932

A police presence
in Jervis Bay



In 1932 the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) established a presence at Jervis Bay, said to be as a result of the granting of a licence for a hotel at the Bay.

Jervis Bay was surrendered by NSW to the Commonwealth Government in 1915 so that the ACT would have ‘access to the sea’. Under the terms of the Jervis Bay Territory Acceptance Act the laws of the ACT apply to the Jervis Bay Territory.

At the time the nearest policeman was stationed at Huskisson, 12 miles away.

In September 1932, Constable First Class E. S. Bailey was transferred as resident constable at Jervis Bay pending the appointment of a permanent officer. As matters developed, he remained on duty at Jervis Bay and did not return to Canberra until February 1936.

An October 1932 article in *The Canberra Times* wrote “In the event of the appointment of a policeman it is probable that he would be given power to deal with registration of motor vehicles, issuing of licenses, and other business which at present is transacted in Canberra by post.”

In its reasoning for a liquor licence, the hotel had said that the population increased from 100 to 450 in the summer months.

While residents have access to ACT courts, they are not separately represented in the ACT Legislative Assembly, and are included in the ACT electorate of Fraser.

Letter of appointment for first ACT officer stationed at Jervis Bay — 1932
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1932

The capital's
first murder



On 28 November 1932 the first recorded murder took place in the ACT.

Bertram Edward Porter was charged with wilfully murdering his 11-month-old son, Charles Robert Porter, on 2 December 1932.

Mr J.W.T. Forrest (Coroner) committed Mr Porter for trial at the next sitting of the High Court of Australia in Canberra. Porter stood trial for murder on 15, 16 and 17 December before Mr Justice McTiernan. The jury disagreed, and could not come to a decision.

A second trial was convened, also at the High Court of Australia in Canberra, on 31 January and 1 February 1933 before Mr Justice Owen Dixon. The jury returned a verdict of ‘not guilty’ on the grounds that Porter was insane at the time of committing the offence.

He was ordered to be detained at the Governor’s pleasure, and after five years was released on licence (similar to parole) in March 1938.

A clipping from *The Canberra Times*,
Friday 16 December 1932
Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

1939-1963



Momentum builds

As a result of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, police services had to absorb additional responsibilities due to the high numbers of service personnel deployed to war efforts.

During this period several of the original serving members of the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) became eligible for retirement, but stayed on until the end World War II.

While this era was marked by the war, it was during these years that policing very much began to evolve and enter new frontiers.

On 24 October 1945 Mr Justice Simpson was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of the ACT and NSW. Also in 1945 the ACT introduced its first plain clothes branch.

In 1947 the first policewoman (Alice Clarke) was appointed to the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) and a traffic branch was established in the ACT. Not long after in 1952, forensics started playing a major role in policing.

In 1957 the name of Canberra's police service changed (again) to the Australian Capital Territory Police, or more commonly, ACT Police.

In 1960 the Commonwealth Police Force was formally established. The Commonwealth Police had federal jurisdiction to investigate offences against the Commonwealth, and were responsible for guarding significant Commonwealth institutions. In the 1960s ACT Police assumed responsibility for embassy and consular protection, however this did not last long and the task was transferred to the Commonwealth Police.



1939

First motorcade in Canberra

One of the first police escorts in the ACT was for then Attorney-General the Honourable J.G. Latham in 1939 involving only a police motorcycle and principal 'pilot' car.

Over the years ACT Policing has routinely provided motorcycle escorts for heads of government to ensure a smooth passage through the city.

While Mr Latham was provided with one police motorcycle escort, members of the Royal Family would usually be escorted by around a dozen police motorcyclists and followed by additional support cars and protection officers.

The President of the United States Barack Obama's motorcade when he visited Canberra in 2011 comprised more than 30 vehicles. This included a visible tactical response capability along with Obama's custom-built Cadillac and SUVs.

The use of the country's flag, which sits on the front of the principal's vehicle, is still part of today's ceremonial requirements. It is only visible when the principal (dignitary or head of government) is in the car and the motorcade is mobile.

.....
I.C Perriman, one of the first Canberra police officers, provides a motorcycle escort for Attorney-General J. G. Latham — 1939
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

A police escort in full formation, including motorcycle 'arrow head' — circa 1960s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Canberra Air Disaster

1940



On 13 August 1940 a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Lockheed Hudson crashed into a hill near the Canberra aerodrome.

The crew and all passengers aboard — including three Federal Ministers and the Chief of the General Staff — died.

The Court of Inquiry into the incident found that it was most likely due to the aircraft stalling on its landing, resulting in loss of control at a height too low for recovery. Emergency crews were at the scene within minutes, however nothing could be done to save the occupants.

The 'Canberra Air Disaster' remains the most significant plane crash in the ACT's history, and was investigated by ACT Police.

A memorial site still exists to this day.

List of deceased: Geoffrey Austin Street, Minister for the Army and Minister for Repatriation; James Valentine Fairbairn, Minister for Air and Civil Aviation; Sir Henry Somer Gullett, Vice President of the Executive Council; General Sir Cyril Brudenell Bingham White, Chief of General Staff; Lieutenant Colonel Francis Thornthwaite, Staff Officer to General White; Richard Edwin Elford, Private Secretary to Mr Fairbairn; and RAAF crew, Flight Lieutenant Richard Edward Hitchcock, Pilot Officer Richard Frederick Wiesener, Corporal John Frederick Palmer and Aircraftman Charles Joseph Crosdale.

.....
The crash site near the Canberra aerodrome of a RAAF Lockheed Hudson.
Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

1945

*The start of
'Plainclothes Police'*



The Criminal Investigations function within today's ACT Policing is a far cry from its origins, when, on 1 July 1945, Constable Bernie Rochford became Canberra's first plainclothes policeman.

The plainclothes 'detectives' were introduced to investigate serious crimes, as it was argued that Canberra was no different in this respect to any other State or Territory. Serious crimes ranged from homicide, robbery, rape, drug abuse, larceny, car theft and fraud offences.

The branch's specialisation expanded over the years to the formation of motor, drug and emergency squads. Paralleling this was the development of scientific-specific units and fingerprint bureaux.

A task force was also set up to specialise in lengthier and more involved criminal investigations; and in the 1960s a specific fraud squad was established to keep pace with the increase in false identity offences.

In 1961 the administration foresaw the need for specialist training for detectives. Constable John Johnson — who became an AFP Commissioner and Commissioner of Tasmania Police — was accepted as the first ACT Police officer to undergo Victoria Police's detective training course. Many more Canberra detectives were to follow, with others tutored at the NSW Police Force detective training school in the late 1960s.

.....
Sergeant First Class Bernard Rochford receiving his Police and Long Service and Good Conduct medal in 1961 from Sir Gordon Freeth, Minister for the Interior
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



The murder of Beverley Keyes in Reid in 1961 was the last time that NSW criminal investigation assistance was requested by ACT Police for a major crime inquiry in the region. Then Detective Sergeant Ray Kelly (now retired) led a team of Canberra detectives to arrest and subsequently convict Daniel Norris Nichols.

In 1975 ACT Police began its own detective training course, catering also for the Northern Territory Police Force and others from investigation sections of some Australian Government departments.

Canberra-born Bernie Rochford retired in 1976 as Deputy Commissioner after leading the Criminal Investigation Division for most of his service.

.....
The murder of Beverley Keyes in Reid in 1961 was the last time that NSW criminal investigation assistance was required for a major crime inquiry in the ACT
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



Jolimont served for 20 years

1946



For 20 years the Canberra Police Station occupied the Jolimont building on the corner of Northbourne Avenue and Alinga Street, Civic, serving as the headquarters for the ACT Police from 1946.

The sizeable weatherboard building was officially named the Canberra Police Station, but was often referred to as the 'Jolimont', because the building had been relocated from Jolimont in Melbourne, near the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The building was shared with the Census Bureau.

Commenting on the move to Jolimont headquarters, then Chief Officer Robert Reid said that "the new position [on Northbourne Avenue] should prove convenient to the public".

Additional facilities provided included the provision for a policewoman and a special wireless room.

It was not until 1966 that the move to the long-awaited and purpose-built City Police Station on London Circuit took place.

Under suspicious circumstances, the Jolimont was destroyed by fire in 1969. The same site now houses another building called the Jolimont Centre, and so its original nickname lives on.

.....
The original Jolimont building housed ACT Police for 20 years — 1946
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



While the first record of a woman playing an active role in policing the Federal Capital Territory was the wife of Sergeant Philip J. Cook in 1923, it was in 1947 that ACT Police officially employed its first policewoman — Constable Alice Liele Clarke (badge number 45).

Shortly after Constable Clarke joined ACT Police, Mavis Margery Chatfield (badge number 48) was sworn in however, she soon left the following year in February 1948.

Constable Clarke remained the sole policewoman until Helen Gillies (badge number 69) joined in November 1949.

The role of women in policing took a backward step during the 1960s when public service regulations restricted married women from becoming police officers. As a result, Ms Gillies retired in March 1955 when she married.

Constable Clarke went on to become a Senior Constable in 1955 and retired after more than 20 years of service in 1967. Her long tenure disproved the popular theory about the employment of women in policing — that they would complete their training, get married, then leave.

Women were not issued with uniforms until 1968 and when they were finally issued with guns, they had to keep them in their handbags, along with their handcuffs and baton.

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Our earliest policewomen: Joan Coleman, Alice Clarke, Robyn Davidson and Gladys Johnson — circa 1963–67
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1947

*The ACT's
first policewoman*

In 1974, 13 women, led by Sergeant Joanne Wendler, made up the 'Women Police Section'. They operated out of the second floor of City Police Station, working morning and afternoon shifts only.

In 1975 six of the incredible women went on to become the first female officers to be deployed to General Duties: Liz Little, Carol Lovegrove, Sandi Peisley, Ann Southward (McEvoy), Aileen Stone (Hope), and Maureen Webb (Ellis).

Women continue to play a significant role in policing the ACT.

Audrey Fagan became the first female Chief Police Officer for the ACT in 2005, and today there are more than 300 women in ACT Policing, working on the frontline and in various support roles. Almost 25 per cent of the sworn cohort is female.

ACT Police women Joan Coleman, Mary Bird, Carol Francis and Gayle McManus — circa 1968
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1952

A forensic first



In 1952 Senior Constable Hector Holmesby of the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) established the first ‘ACT — Police Photographic Section’, a one-man show where he processed and printed film in a converted toilet.

Senior Constable Holmesby had a special interest in photography, and his main work became photographing serious accident scenes, crime scenes and prisoner identification photographs.

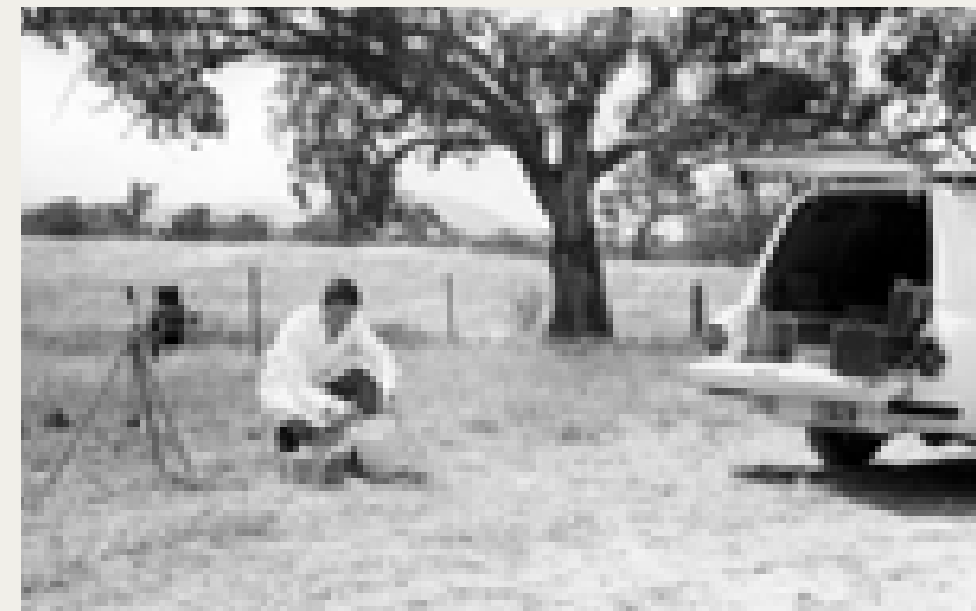
In December 1959 Ian Broomby was asked to relieve Senior Constable Holmesby while he was on leave. Broomby also had an interest in 35mm photography and had dark room knowledge so when Holmesby was later promoted, Broomby took over his photographic duties and furthered his skills to include firearms and fingerprint examinations.

At the time the ACT did not have a fingerprint identification capability nor a criminal records section. Any person charged with an offence had two sets of fingerprints taken, both of which were then sent to the Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFB) in Sydney. The prints were classified, searched and either identified as belonging to a previously known offender with a criminal record, or a new record established.

If the prints could not be matched to a known offender, one set of the prints was retained at the CFB, while the second set was returned to Canberra.

In Canberra, all these records, including the fingerprints, were filed in alphabetical order at Canberra Police Station.

.....
This ‘Speed Graphic’ camera was used by Constable Holmesby for forensic photography until the mid-1950s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



In the 1960s the Henry Filing System was introduced — the ACT’s first main fingerprint collection. At the same time the Information Section, which later changed its name to Criminal Records, was established and all fingerprints were filed, in name-indexed order, in large filing cabinets adjacent to the Scientific Section on the first floor of City Police Station.

The transfer of fingerprint files to the newly formed ACT Fingerprint Bureau was completed in 1967. Broomby, the ACT’s first officer to gain ‘expert’ status on fingerprints and provide that supporting evidence in court said he would never forget how proud he felt when Sergeant Ron McDonald, his mentor from the Central Fingerprint Bureau in Sydney, called into Canberra to see how the new ACT operation was going.

“Ron went straight to the main [filing] cabinet, pulled out a drawer, inspected the contents and said ‘you need to fix up the lettered file, they are not filed correctly’,” Sergeant Broomby said. “But at least we had managed all the filing ourselves without a secondment from the Central Fingerprint Bureau!”

The role of AFP Forensics is now much broader than photography. It includes crime scenes, industrial accidents, firearms, improvised explosives, X-ray, trace evidence, tool marks, shoe impressions and much more. Fingerprints are now undertaken by General Duties officers using Livescan, an electronic process introduced in 2004.

.....
Constable Phil Baer — who was also involved in establishing ACT’s forensic capability — mixing plaster on Cooma Road for a shoeprint cast — circa 1960s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1956

A Traffic Division Mini — circa 1960s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The first Traffic Division

The impact of the motor vehicle on ACT traffic law enforcement and road safety could not have been visualised by Canberrans of the post-war decade when the Traffic Division became operational in 1956.

The Traffic Division came from very humble beginnings with only a few men riding 650cc Triumph Thunderbird motorcycles and another two uniformed members performing foot traffic patrols and checking drivers' licences.



In 1965 the first Accident Investigation Squad was introduced and the squad was acclaimed as having outstanding expertise in investigation skills. The now ACT Policing Crash Investigations and Reconstruction Team, affectionately referred to as the ‘Prang Gang’, is made up two sergeants and 12 team members.

In the late 1960s, the Traffic Branch, as it was then known, grew to include the motorcycle squad of 12 to 15 riders, on 7am to 3pm and 3 to 11pm shifts. There were 27 Thunderbird motorcycles in 1968.

In the school holidays of 1969–70, the Recruitment and Training Branch introduced courses in driver education for senior students of Canberra high schools. Three courses were held and 72 senior school students were trained. The courses, which were of two days duration, included lectures and practical demonstrations by the Chief Driving Instructor of the ACT Police, Constable C.J. Morris.

Through the years, ACT police officers have driven some unusual cars, from Ford Zephyrs and Cortinas to Daimlers, Studebakers, Valiants and Humber Super Snipes, and in 1970, even the famous Mini Cooper S.

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.....
A traffic member with his XA Falcon sedan pursuit car — circa 1973
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

The Accident Investigation Squad van — circa 1965
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The introduction of a policy to support Australian-made cars occasionally had its pitfalls: for a period during the mid-1970s, the patrol car for General Duties was the problematic, lamentable Leyland P76.

Today’s Traffic Operations cars are sourced from a selection of Australian-produced models, mostly because these have proved capable of enduring the rigours of pursuit work. A number of high-profile imported cars have been trialled as alternatives but the combination of roominess, performance, affordability and reliability make models like the Holden Commodore SS and the Ford Falcon XR6 Turbo the team’s logical choices.

Specialist areas of Traffic Operations have their own particular needs, with the Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Team attending crash scenes in VW Transporter vans racked up with high-tech equipment.

.....
Pursuit training with four-cylinder Honda CBR motorcycles in the 1960s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus during his time as a traffic member in 1988

1957

A new badge for the ACT Police



In 1957 the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) changed its name to the Australian Capital Territory Police, more commonly known as the ACT Police.

In recognition of this change, then Commissioner Ted Richards introduced the ACT Police badge; a badge worn on police caps, and larger in size to increase visibility of police officers.

The new badge, specifically designed by Sergeant Harry Luton, moved away from the oval Commonwealth Police badge which had been used since 1927, when the ACT established its own dedicated police force.

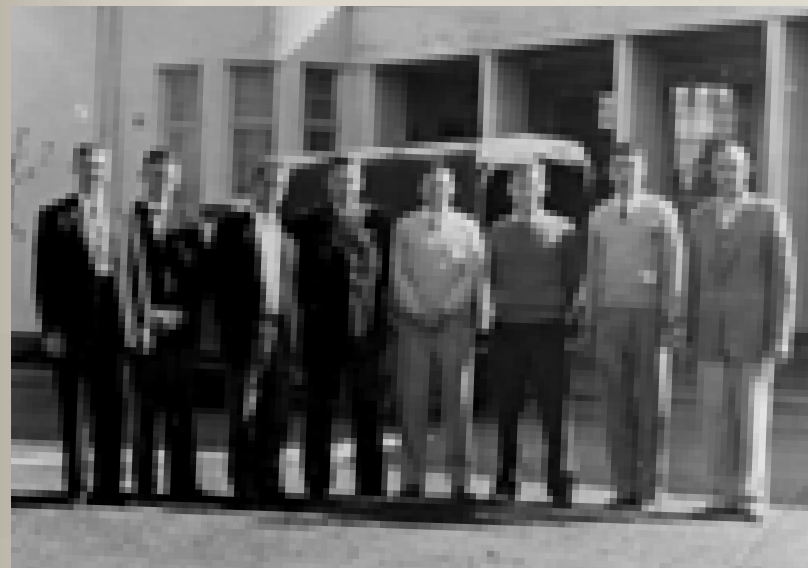
Richards is thought to have also designed and introduced the ACT metal ‘fob’ badge (worn on the left pocket of an officer’s uniform); an idea he’d picked up in France. An officer’s badge number was normally engraved in the plinth area, and probationary constables were issued with a version that included a ‘P’ before their service number.

There was also a female ‘brooch’ version issued.

The pocket badges were introduced to provide “added distinction and colour” to the uniform, and to enable the public to readily recognise police and identify members of the force.

.....
The ACT Police badge was initially introduced featuring the King’s Crown, and was later changed to the Queen’s Crown in 1965

First recruit training school in Canberra 1959



In 1959 the first recruit class (known as ‘training school’) was held in Canberra. The training took place at the Drill Hall in Childers Street, Turner.

The class comprised seven men, all of whom graduated as Constables of Police for the ACT Police after seven weeks in class, followed by 45 weeks as probationary ‘on the job’.

Training had previously taken place in either NSW or Victoria, with officers then returning for duty in the ACT post-graduation.

Students wore general or business attire, and were issued with, and had to study, all relevant ACT ordinances and an instruction manual: *Police Practice for Constables*.

Students also undertook written exams on laws of the ACT (and the associated manual) at the end of the seven weeks, and were required to achieve a minimum of 90 per cent. They also had to pass a firearms test, a ‘physical’ and a self-defence assessment.

At the completion of training all members were deployed in general duties to the only police station at the time — Canberra Police Station at the ‘Jolimont’ building on Northbourne Avenue.

Recruits now undertake a 25-week live-in Federal Police Development Program at the AFP College at Barton, comprising theory and practical assessment, followed by 12 months on probation in general duties.

The Chief Instructor for the first ACT-based recruit course was Sergeant Harold Franklin Luton.

.....
The first recruit class in Canberra — 1959. From left: Joe Mickleson, Barry Whiting, John Davey, Sergeant Harry Luton (course instructor), Bevan Bryce, Peter Dawson, Ian Broomby and Don Boon.

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
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Students undertake a seven-week training school to become ACT Police officers — 1959.

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



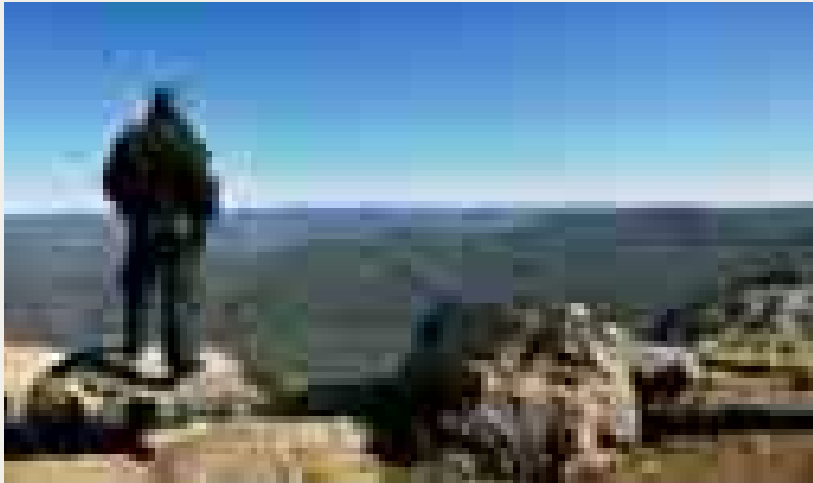
1962

ACT Police Rural Patrol member Peter McDonald finds slain lambs with his VW Beetle — circa 1960s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Keeping it rural

Nearly 84 per cent of the ACT, or a massive 1762 square kilometres — much of it rugged, mountainous terrain — has been policed by a specific ACT-based rural patrol team since 1962.

Prior to the creation of the Rural Patrol, any policing or investigative activity outside the metropolitan areas was seen as an adjunct to normal general duties. However, as the suburbs around the nation's capital grew and the population increased, the associated crime — generally minor offences such as trespass, illegal hunting, and property damage — impacted the outlying properties. More bushwalkers and hikers ventured out into the bushland areas around Canberra, and invariably some required police assistance or rescue.



The first Rural Patrol vehicle was a Volkswagen Beetle, the logic being that the little car was rugged and robust, and if it bogged, was light enough to extract.

Constable Peter McDonald was the first officer assigned to the role in 1962. It was hardly the easiest of duties when there was no radio communication and to call for assistance, he had to drive to a remote telephone station — located at Hall, Weetangera, Royalla, Tharwa or Rocky Crossing — to make calls.

In experienced and capable hands, the Rural Patrol Beetle covered a remarkable amount of challenging trips, including deep into the pre-1970s construction sites for Bendora and Corin Dams. In comparison, the current Toyota Landcruiser is driven around the dam construction site at the Cotter.

The work of the Rural Patrol hasn't changed much over the years but their equipment has improved significantly.

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The first Rural Patrol vehicle was a Volkswagen Beetle, the logic being that the little car was rugged and robust, and if it bogged, was light enough to be easily extracted.

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Constable Kele Nabukete of today's Rural Patrol looks on from Mt Coree II — 2011
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times

.....

Rural patrols are conducted in all weather conditions across the ACT's rural areas — circa 2006

From a rope, an axe and a good set of bush skills in the yesteryear of the Rural Patrol, the team's new Toyota LandCruiser is packed with a lift kit (for extra ground clearance), locking diffs, an electric winch, Max Trax, a high-lift jack, a hand-operated winch, recovery equipment (such as snatch-em straps), first aid kit, fire fighting equipment, a chainsaw and safety gear, thermal vision goggles, GPS, a satellite phone, overnight camping gear, portable gas bottles and cooking equipment.

The forms of communication have also improved with the team able to use the ACT Policing radio, CB radio, Ranger and Fire Channels Radio, NSW radio channels as well as helicopter communications.

Today's Rural Patrol still works closely with farmers and partner agencies to keep across policing issues in the ACT's national parks and forestry areas. They seek out illegal pig hunters and unregistered trail bikers, investigate stock theft and drug crops, help visitors with bogged vehicles and inspect burnt-out or abandoned vehicles.

The two-person Rural Patrol team — based out of the Tuggeranong Police Station — is the main point of contact for the 1500-plus residents who live in the rural areas of the ACT, including the townships of Tharwa and Uriarra Village.

.....

Senior Constable Steve Szabo of Rural Patrol in the late 1990s



1963

Water Operations' Ray Nicholson, Jan Dejager, Joe Royale, Peter Lindsay and Mark Quilter in the early years — 1969
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Taking policing to the water

ACT Policing's Water Operations function had its origins in 1963 when police would respond to distress calls from locals who had got into trouble in the nearby Murrumbidgee and Molonglo rivers.

Swift water rescues were not uncommon in these fast-rising rivers, which would quickly swell in height when fed by deluges from the catchments further upstream. A casual swim in the local river on a warm summer's day occasionally resulted in police being summoned to rescue a rock-marooned swimmer using ropes and flotation devices.

There were also less urgent problems to deal with. When Lake Burley Griffin was created in the heart of Canberra in the 1960s, police ended up towing out



the bogged vehicles of locals who were a little too curious and had ventured too far onto the muddy lake bottom during construction.

In 1963 (then) ACT Police Commissioner Ted Richards drafted a formal request to the Department of the Interior to formalise the role of rescue in and around the city's waterways and shores. "At present, we have police boats and equipment, a number of members have experience at skin diving, but they have not undergone a course of skin diving training," Commissioner Richards wrote.

He proposed a team of six full-time members, with a former dairy cottage on the lake shore at Yarralumla Bay to be the residence of the most senior member, and the ACT Water Police was born, complete with enviable lakeside views.

It was in 1942 that Water Operations introduced its first dedicated vessel, a 24-foot cruiser previously owned by the NSW Department of Customs.

In a well-chosen bond with Australia's naval history, the vessel was named the 'Platypus'. It bore the nameplate of former Royal Australian Navy submarine repair ship, HMAS Platypus, which was badly damaged during the raids on Darwin Harbour in 1942. The platypus is also the symbol of the AFP.

In 1984 the same nameplate was transferred to a more modern Water Police vessel — a seven-metre alloy-hulled cabin cruiser. But demands on the Water Police steadily increased, and soon after they switched to a V8-powered fibreglass-reinforced craft.

.....
The first dedicated Water Operations vessel — the *Platypus*
— was acquired in 1942



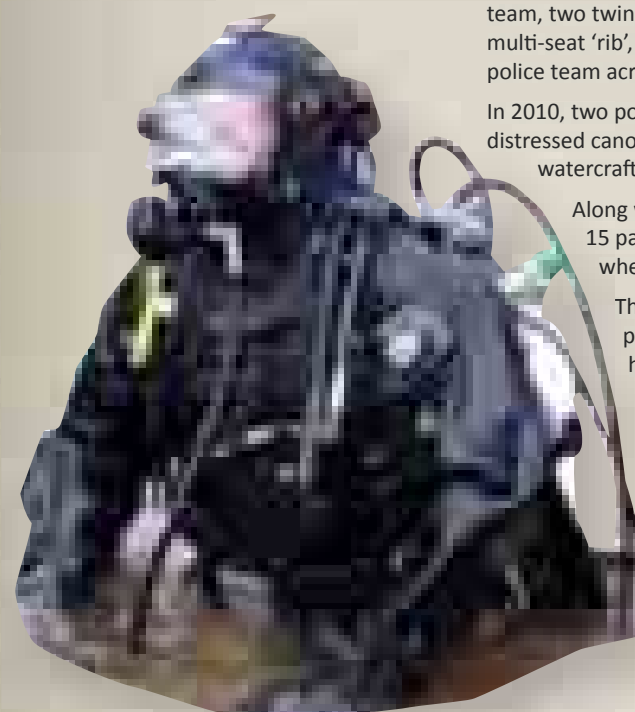
When Water Operations was placed under the wing of the Specialist Response and Security team, two twin-engine craft were added to the fleet, and later supplemented by a powerful multi-seat 'rib', specifically for the purpose of providing the capability to transport a tactical police team across the lake in seconds.

In 2010, two powerful jet skis were introduced, proving their worth when a cold and distressed canoeist needed rescuing from the Molonglo River, one month after the new watercraft were introduced.

Along with a dedicated Water Operations team, there are now more than 15 part-time, trained police divers who provide additional support and assistance when needed.

Those who serve in the role say it is not without its benefits, especially when patrolling the lake on a warm summer's day. A notable drawback however, is having to 'suit up' and dive to the lake's coldest, lowest extremities, where a diver's single flipper movement stirs the silt layer into a murky, muddy stew.

The dedicated Water Operations team remains at Yarralumla Bay.



.....
Maritime members patrol Lake Burley Griffin during a major event — 2011
.....

A police diver emerging from Lake Burley Griffin — 2011

1964–1988



Embracing the community

As Canberra grew, so did the police footprint.

In 1970 the first Woden Police Station was opened, followed in succession by the original Belconnen Police Station (1976) and the Tuggeranong Police Station at Erindale in 1982.

The need to understand and engage with the local community to identify and prevent crime was also recognised during this era.

Constable Kenny Koala first appeared on scene in the mid-1970s, with the objective to educate children on a range of safety themes, and to encourage them to turn to police for help and advice. Shortly after, the suburban policing concept, where officers became entrenched in their local patrol zone, was launched.

A defining moment in the evolution of community policing in the national capital was reached on 19 October 1979 with the beginning of the Australian Federal Police.

The Sydney Hilton hotel bombing in 1978 was a catalyst for the formation of the AFP, with the Australian Government recognising the increased need for a national organisation to deal with issues of national security and terrorism.

It was determined that the AFP was to produce two outcomes. Outcome 1 would increase Australia's national law enforcement capability. Outcome 2 would deliver the full spectrum of community policing services for the ACT by amalgamating the former ACT Police with the Commonwealth Police. Thus, today's ACT Policing was born.

As the community policing arm of the AFP, ACT Policing has, since 1979, been fortunate to have been part of a national law enforcement agency, with access to world-class services and facilities, and a 6500-plus ready reserve.



1964

A member of the 1983 Special Operations Team

The emergence of specialist response

The 'Armed Offenders Squad' was created in 1964 after ACT officers attended a NSW Police Force 'Emergency Squad' training course.

The squad was under the control of ACT Police Detectives and worked on a part-time needs basis.

After the establishment of the AFP in 1979 a number of the Australian Army's elite Special Air Service Regiment were employed as federal police in order to create the Counter Terrorist Operations Section. The section was dissolved in 1981 after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne.



The squad underwent several changes and was subsequently renamed the Special Operations Team in 1983.

This newly established Special Operations Team comprised members from other States and Territories as well as ACT Policing.

From 1987 onwards the Special Operations Team continued to grow in size, and in capability, until 2002 when the team underwent significant changes and was renamed Specialist Response and Security in 2003.

Separate to the Special Operations Team was a part-time team known as the Operational Support Group of approximately 40 members which specialised in crowd control and public order management. This capability was also subsumed into Specialist Response and Security to form one specialist policing team to address the specific needs of the ACT.

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After the establishment of the AFP in 1979 a number of the Australian Army's elite Special Air Service Regiment were employed as federal police in order to create the Counter Terrorist Operations Section.

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Members of the Armed Offenders Squad — *circa* 1960s

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Tactical Members respond to a simulated attack on a vehicle convoy — 2012



Specialist Response and Security comprised a set of specialist capabilities to enable ACT Policing to respond to high-risk incidents and operations in the region. Initially the team was made up of 36 members (broken into four teams) who were highly trained in tactical operations, search and rescue, canine and bomb response.

The Specialist Response and Security team also fulfilled the Australian Government's National Anti-Terrorism Plan which required each State and Territory police force to maintain a specialist counter-terrorist and hostage rescue unit with specialist capabilities.

The team is now part of the almost 200-strong AFP Specialist Response Group, Australia's largest specialist capability, launched in 2012.

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A tactical member participates in a public order management drill — 2012



1964

ACT police deploy to Cyprus

The first Australian civilian police contingent arrived in Cyprus — fitted out in blue serge uniforms — as part of the United Nations’ non-military approach to peacekeeping in 1964.



The mission drew police from Austria (34), Denmark (41), Sweden (14), New Zealand (20) and Australia (40) to restore and maintain law and order. One ACT Police officer was deployed as part of the Australian contingent. The need for the mission was triggered by moves to unify the island with Greece which led to armed conflict between the island’s Greek and Turkish communities. To control the situation, the Cypriot Government requested the assistance of the United Nations.

After the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the United Nations Security Council expanded the mission to prevent the dispute turning into a war. The United Nations buffer zone, which cuts across the country, separates the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities and also separates the government-controlled south from the Turkish military-occupied north.

Australia has had a continuous police presence in Cyprus since 1964, initially comprised of Commonwealth, State and Territory police, with the AFP assuming full responsibility in 1979.

For ACT Police, the deployment to Cyprus in 1964 was the first overseas operation of this nature, and forged the way for future international peacekeeping missions and disaster relief efforts.

First Cyprus contingent on parade in 1964
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

First contingent arrives in Cyprus — 1964
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1964

Police and emergency services take part in a search and rescue exercise — 2011

Searching to rescue

The first Search and Rescue team was introduced in 1964 after the realisation that the ACT Police was unprepared and not equipped to perform such duties.

The team came about in the wake of a particularly hazardous rescue of a young person along Rendezvous Creek in 1963, where two general duties police involved in the incident submitted a report to ACT Police Command highlighting the dangers they faced largely because they did not have the necessary equipment or training.

The squad initially consisted of a group of men who were all volunteers, under the command of Inspector 'Wally' Osborne. All members were attached to the team on a part-time basis, performing their substantive duties of patrolling or investigations, until



they received a call-out to a rescue incident. The squad focused on bush, rural and urban searches and rescues, and kept their limited equipment in a hay trailer owned by Inspector Osborne at the City Police Station.

After using Inspector Osborne’s hay trailer for many years, the ACT Police Search and Rescue squad purchased an International brand 4-wheel-drive truck in 1975. A Ford F-250 replaced the International in 1984. Considerable planning and thought went into the purchase and modification of the Ford. The dimensions of the Ford enabled the vehicle to be placed in an Air Force Hercules aircraft if required.

The squad remained part-time until October 1980, when a small full-time team was established, largely as a result of the squad’s increasing role in responding to road rescues. The initial full-time team of six officers — then Sergeant Peter Bradley and Constables Ray Kristiansen, Ross Crafter, Peter Bright, Mick Walker, and Jeff McGregor — were supplemented with then Constables Peter Baldwin, Dale Brown and Greg Lovell, who filled in for the ‘regulars’ when they were absent.

The first female police rescuer to join the squad was then Constable Louise Denley, who worked full-time from 1989 to 1990. Louise, Joanne McFee and Kate Buggy all completed a basic Search and Rescue course in 1988.

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The largest operation the squad has undertaken remains Cyclone Tracy in Darwin in 1974, although the Thredbo landslide in 1997, in which the team was heavily involved, was another of significance.

Members of Search and Rescue begin a search in Canberra’s south — *circa 2000*



The largest operation the squad has undertaken remains Cyclone Tracy in Darwin in 1974, although the Thredbo landslide in 1997, in which the team was heavily involved, was another of significance.

There have been a number of searches for missing persons, including a search in Mount Kosciuszko in 1999, in support of the NSW Police Force, where 65 members in total were deployed to find four missing snowboarders.

The now Search and Rescue team within the AFP’s Specialist Response Group is made up of 11 highly-trained operators supported by a further 33 members attached to Targeted Operations.

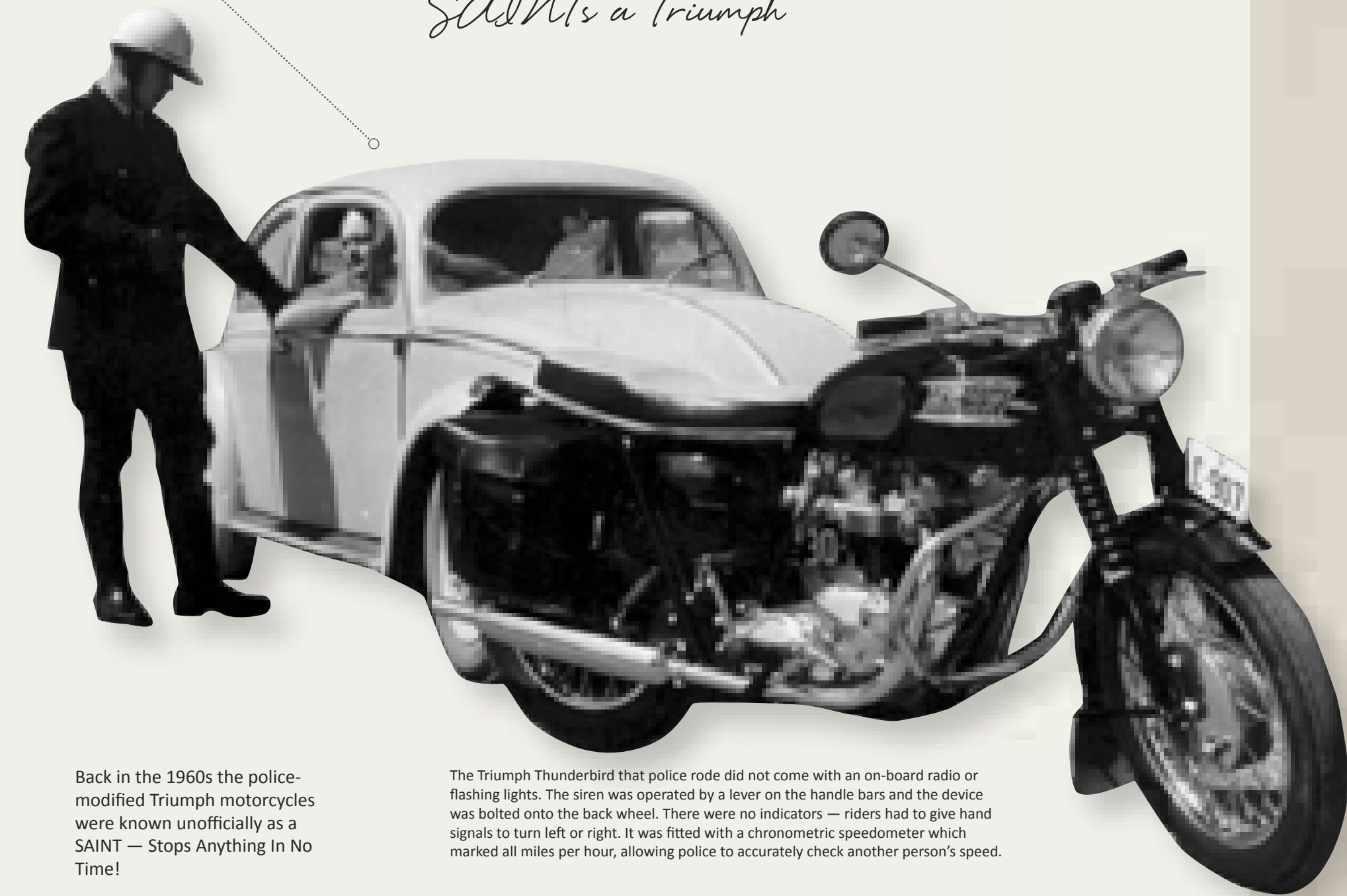
Two purpose-fitted Toyota Land Cruisers, along with several trailers, make up the core Search and Rescue fleet.

Equipment stored on the main vehicles today includes: a full set of vertical rescue equipment, basket stretcher, confined space stretcher, Kendric extrication devices, spinal boards, breathing apparatus, air powered and hydraulic cutting and lifting equipment, air bags, timber baulks, fire extinguishers, a 3.25kv generator, telescopic flood lights, body bags, body handling equipment, line launcher, ladders, rakes, shovels, protective clothing, maps and stationary, first-aid equipment, ropes, cleaning equipment and portable radios.

Sergeant Warren Williamson with Senior Constable (at the time) Steve Sargent at the Cotter Dam wall undertaking repelling training — *circa 1996*

1965

SAINTs a Triumph



Back in the 1960s the police-modified Triumph motorcycles were known unofficially as a SAINT — Stops Anything In No Time!

The Triumph Thunderbird that police rode did not come with an on-board radio or flashing lights. The siren was operated by a lever on the handle bars and the device was bolted onto the back wheel. There were no indicators — riders had to give hand signals to turn left or right. It was fitted with a chronometric speedometer which marked all miles per hour, allowing police to accurately check another person's speed.

.....
A member of ACT Police pulls over a Canberra motorist on his Triumph — 1965
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



Triumph SAINTs were used by the ACT Police Traffic Branch to enforce the Motor Traffic Ordinance in the suburbs (at school crossings) and in the Civic Centre (at Commonwealth Avenue, Northbourne Avenue and London Circuit). As there were no traffic lights in the ACT in the 1960s, police directed traffic at the intersections of these major roads in the morning, at lunchtime and during afternoon peak periods.

Radio phones were introduced in about 1969 and were fitted to the tank rack. The pannier bags contained the rider's wet weather uniform and duty notebooks.

In early 1965 the ACT Police motorcycle squad received an additional 12 members. To equip the new riders with the skills in bike handling Sergeant Jack Morris trained them at the Hall showground. Training, usually for a period of about two weeks, was also undertaken on Cotter Road, Canberra Avenue (which was open to the public) and Cooma Road near Williamsdale, especially for high-speed training. Riders wore helmets with no police badge and unmarked overalls; clothing that wouldn't identify them as members of the police force. The motorcycle that the riders completed their training on was the one with which they were formally issued.

For a while the Triumphs were used for high-speed pursuits on Cooma Road and highways, often the snow traffic, until it was decided that the motorcycles were mechanically and technically unfit for high speed work. They were also used for ceremonies, escorting wide loads, and for ambassadors delivering credentials to the Governor-General.

Riders were allowed four hours to clean and polish their bike before a major escort.

Triumphs were also used by the United Kingdom Police in 1966. The NSW Police and Victoria Police also used the Triumph 'SAINT', Victoria Police introducing Triumphs in 1950 for the Warrant and Files members on patrol.

In 1971 Triumphs were replaced by the Honda Four 750 K1. In 1971 there were three Triumphs and 38 Honda motorcycles in the ACT Police fleet. These Triumphs may have been used as training motorcycles.

Most police services in Australia are now using Yamahas or BMWs for traffic operations.

.....
Members of the Traffic Division outside the Jolimont building
— circa 1959–60
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1966

Police Communications operating out of City Police Station in the late 1970s

Police Communications

While a radio room and system was in place at the Canberra Police Station (the Jolimont building) to dispatch police to incidents across the ACT, it was not until 1966, with the opening of the City Police Station on London Circuit, that Police Communications became a fully operational 'communications centre'.

'Booths' were established where members would record requests for assistance on 'Job Cards' which were then passed to a radio operator for allocation to a patrol.



The radio operator also maintained a ‘Patrol Card’ for each police vehicle working at the time, recording their movements throughout the shift.

In 1989 the first computer aided dispatch system was introduced into ACT Policing to electronically track requests for assistance and the movements of patrols, replacing the old-fashioned Job and Patrol Cards.

In 1998 two further major upgrades occurred with Police Communications. The analogue radio network was replaced with a digital system and a new computer aided dispatch system was introduced. The current computer aided dispatch system incorporates a mapping function to verify the location of incidents against digital maps of the ACT.

Historically, the core business of Police Communications has not altered, but its effectiveness in delivering services to the community has been greatly enhanced through technological advances.

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One of the first in-car radio systems in the ACT — circa 1956
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

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The refurbished Police Communications, first floor City Police Station, in 1985
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

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ACT Policing Operations receive and triage around 30 000 Triple Zero (000) calls each year, more than 140 000 calls for police assistance and dispatch police to around 90 000 incidents annually as its Priority Response Model.

Police Communications is now referred to as ACT Policing Operations, and since 2000 has incorporated both sworn and unsworn personnel. The move to inject ‘civilians’ into ACT Policing Operations, specifically in Radio Communications, was to ensure as many officers as possible were available on the ‘frontline’.

ACT Policing Operations — located at the Winchester Police Centre headquarters in Belconnen — continues to provide centralised command, control, communication, and coordination (dispatch) services for the ACT.

What was once staffed by one sergeant and six constables during business hours, 10 sergeants (in total), and one of whom is the Duty Operations Manager (DOM), now manage an ‘Operations floor’ of around 10 to 16 staff at any time, 24-hours-a-day, and seven-days-a-week.

Operators dispatch patrols to all reported incidents across the ACT, with the DOM responsible for overseeing all radio communications and making any final decisions required. As an objective party, the DOM is also responsible for monitoring, and if needed, calling off, police pursuits patrol members may be engaged in.

ACT Policing Operations receive and triage around 30 000 Triple Zero (000) calls each year, more than 140 000 calls for police assistance and dispatch police to around 90 000 incidents annually, in line with its Priority Response Model.

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Members of ACT Policing Operations manning calls for police assistance at the Winchester Police Centre — 2013



1966

The outside of City Police Station in 1994, as it remains today

City Police Station *opens*

For the ACT Police the new City Police Station opening in 1966 next to the law courts on London Circuit made Canberra's title of 'the national capital' a reality.

For many members the move into the new building from the old weatherboard station on Northbourne Avenue (the 'Jolimont') conflicted with personal concerns, clouding the historic move.

Some were eagerly looking forward to serving in Woden and Belconnen, where police would be stationed to meet the growing communities, at the time already numbering tens of thousands.



The new station however, was a forward step in the history of ACT Policing, providing, for the first time, ‘modern’ and well-equipped police headquarters. There were even petrol pumps in the underground car park.

The then Scientific Section also moved into City Police Station at this time, working out of a small office with the ‘bare essentials’.

In the mid-1980s, the top floor of the station included a cafeteria; where members could order hot and cold lunches, and sit down to eat.

At 10am and 2.30pm the ‘tea lady’ — one by the name of Nancy Palombi — would wander the station offering coffee and cake, and served morning and afternoon tea Monday to Friday.

For a period of time Police Communications (now ACT Policing Operations) operated out of the first floor of City Police Station.

In August 1994 the City Police Station re-opened after extensive refurbishment. While the inside of the station was completely gutted, the outside remained untouched due to Heritage Listing requirements. Only the outside entry to the City Police Station changed, and this was due to workplace health and safety reasons.

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In the mid-1980s, the top floor of the station included a cafeteria; where members could order hot and cold lunches, and sit down to eat.

.....
Officers Terry Dee and Bob Tomlison working inside the City Police Station — 1966
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
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Joan Coleman, David Kennemore and Ken Charge at the Information Bureau inside the City Police Station in 1973
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Superintendent responsible for City Police Station at the time Denis McDermott recalls members operating out of temporary accommodation in the car park until August of that year when they relocated back inside the station.

Along with internal works, the station was re-roofed, signage was erected, and an internal staircase was built. Staff amenities included toilets, showers, lockers rooms, meal rooms and a gymnasium.

General duties police were accompanied by the Weapons Registry, the Juvenile Aid Branch, City Legal Section, City Crime Branch, the Media Team, Education Unit, Coroner’s Office, and the Traffic Document Section.

The Watch House — designed to allow for a future tunnel to the ACT Magistrates Court — included four pre-charge cells for group holding, two exercise yards, and five ‘persons-at-risk’ cells. The ACT Watch House and sallyport — a secure prisoner loading and unloading area — remain at City Police Station.

The City Police Station celebrates 50 years in 2016 as the oldest remaining (function) police station in the ACT.

.....
The 1994 official opening of the refurbished City Police Station
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1968

*ACT
policewomen's
uniform introduced*



ACT police women were not issued with uniforms until 1968. Until then, they just wore 'everyday' clothes. The first uniform comprised a junior blue skirt, jacket and cap of Australian pure wool and a blue cotton blouse with a black 'bow tie'. The skirt was straight with a kick pleat and the long-sleeved jacket had epaulettes on each shoulder.

Female recruits wore a light khaki uniform dress with ACT Police buttons. They did not wear their 'blues' until their graduation day.

The ACT Police Uniform Committee rejected policewomen wearing slacks for many years, with the argument that women's duties did not justify this uniform entitlement. After much discussion, slacks were eventually introduced.

In 1972 all ACT police officers were issued with new uniforms. The summer uniform worn by all AFP women was particularly disliked right from the beginning. The light blue short-sleeved jacket and matching straight skirt with a kick pleat looked smart — as long as the wearer was standing still and upright — but it was highly impractical.

After many complaints, a committee was set up to review the uniform. The end result was much more serviceable attire. The new design allowed policewomen greater mobility and the materials used were the same as the men's uniforms. The uniform comprised a blue shirt and black culottes topped by a black hat with a chequered band.

Police women now have the option of wearing a skirt or trousers, and are equipped with the same uniform entitlements as men, including accoutrements. They no longer carry their guns, handcuffs, baton, and notepads in their police-issued handbags!

.....
Gillian Albiez and Joanne Prince (nee Williamson). The light blue uniform on the left was used by first the ACT Police and then the AFP from 1972 until 1987. It was impractical for operational work and was gradually phased out after the uniform on the right was introduced in the mid 1980s — circa 1986

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
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Sue Beattie and Louise Lammin circa 1969-73
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum





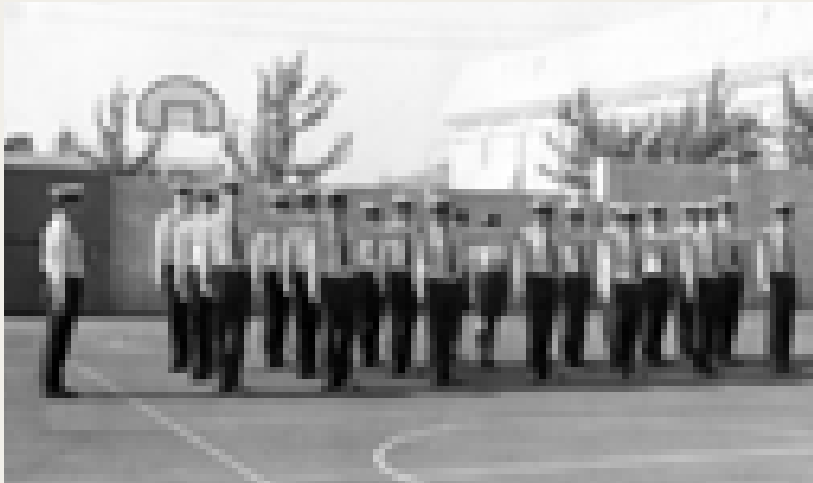
1970

The original Woden Police Station served for 35 years
— circa 1970
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Opening of Woden Police Station

The first Woden Police Station began operation at 0700 Monday 19 October 1970 with four sergeants and nine constables, one plain clothes constable of the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Recruitment and Training Branch of five instructors and four lecturers.

Building for the station — which cost \$250 000 — started in June 1969 by the National Capital Development Commission. The building was of reinforced concrete containing a basement and two above-ground floors, about 94 feet long by 52 feet wide. It had an enclosed parade ground of about 9000 square feet, where for a period of time recruits



were trained. [The ACT Police College at Gorman House was later opened as a dedicated recruit college until the creation of the AFP in 1979 and when the AFP College in Barton was introduced.]

Fingerprinting facilities were available at the station; however people taken into police custody who needed to be photographed had to be transported to ACT Police headquarters.

There was also a telephone box in the entry foyer for contact with headquarters after hours (between 11pm and 7am).

After 35 years and some refurbishment, the Bradley Street premises was replaced when the doors of a new \$8.2 million, 2260 square metres architecturally designed station, were opened in November 2005.

Recruits parade in the grounds of the Bradley Street
Woden Police Station — circa 1971
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The entrance to the original Woden Police Station
— circa 1970s

“After 35 years and some refurbishment, the Bradley Street premises was replaced when the doors of a new \$8.2 million, 2260 square metres architecturally designed station, were opened in November 2005.

At the official opening ceremony, former Commissioner Mick Keelty said that the opening of the new station marked an exciting new chapter in the history of Woden Police Station and for the AFP: “Many of our members have worked at Woden Police Station at some stage in their careers, and this has stood them in good stead as they have progressed through the organisation — whether locally, nationally or internationally.”

“Some of them have even gone on to hold very senior positions within Australian policing: Inspector Max Robinson was the first Officer-in-Charge of Recruit Training at Woden and went on to become Commissioner of Tasmania Police. John Johnson became a deputy commissioner of the AFP and Commissioner of Tasmania Police. Peter Dawson and Colin Winchester became Assistant Commissioners and the [then] current Chief Police Officer — Audrey Fagan — worked at Woden Police Station in the mid-1980s,” Commissioner Keelty had said.

Simon Overland, who became Victoria Police Commissioner, John Lawler, Australian Crime Commission Chief Executive Officer and AFP Commissioner Tony Negus also spent time at Woden Police Station.

Former Chief Police Officer for the ACT Audrey Fagan at the
launch of the opening of the new Woden Police Station
— 2005



1971

Woden floods

Australia Day, 1971: a super cell thunderstorm caused flash flooding in the Woden Valley area killing seven people, and injuring many others.

Sisters Jennifer, 12, and Dianne Seymour, 8; Michael John Smith, 6, and his sisters Carmel, 18, and Margaret, 14; Roderick Dumaresq Simon, 20, and Lon Cumberland, 18, drowned.

It was estimated that around 95 millimetres of rain fell in one hour.

The force of the water was strong enough to move a bus 180 degrees on Melrose Drive south-east of the intersection with Yarra Glen. The intersection was covered to a depth of an estimated 1.83 metres and the floodwaters spread an estimated 183 metres wide, east to west across the intersection of Yamba Drive, Melrose Drive and Yarra Glen.

At the time of the storm the roads were filled with commuters heading home. With the traffic stopped the valley became blocked with debris. The back-up of water sent a flash flood surging onto the roads were, engulfing more than a dozen cars and sweeping them away.

Now retired Constable Jeff Brown was awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry for his rescue efforts during the event.

Four other ACT Policing members — Blen McInnes, Mike Lucas, Peter Harrison and John Whelan — were later awarded the Queen’s Commendation for Brave Conduct for their part in rescue efforts during the event.

The insurance damage was estimated at \$9 million.

.....
Seven crosses commemorating the 1971 flood victims were erected by former police officer Blen McInnes on the site next to Melrose Drive
Image courtesy of the Jeremy Thompson
.....

The impact of the Woden floods — 1971
Images courtesy of The Canberra Times



1972

First fingerprint prosecution

In November 1972, the first successful prosecution through the use of fingerprint evidence was achieved in the ACT.

The trail of evidence began in April 1968 when police stopped a car driving along London Circuit. The driver, Andrew Maloney, was asked to open the boot, while the other four occupants in the car ran off.

Police caught two of the runaways and found a haul of stolen property in the boot including 16 woollen jumpers, a car radio, a tape recorder, two television sets, a suede coat, and three sets of cutlery. The total value of the goods was \$1493.

Intelligence at the time identified a shoplifting gang that would drive from Sydney to Canberra on a regular basis, returning to Sydney with stolen property each time. In an effort to avoid detection and not being known in Canberra by fingerprint records, the gang continued to avoid being detected.

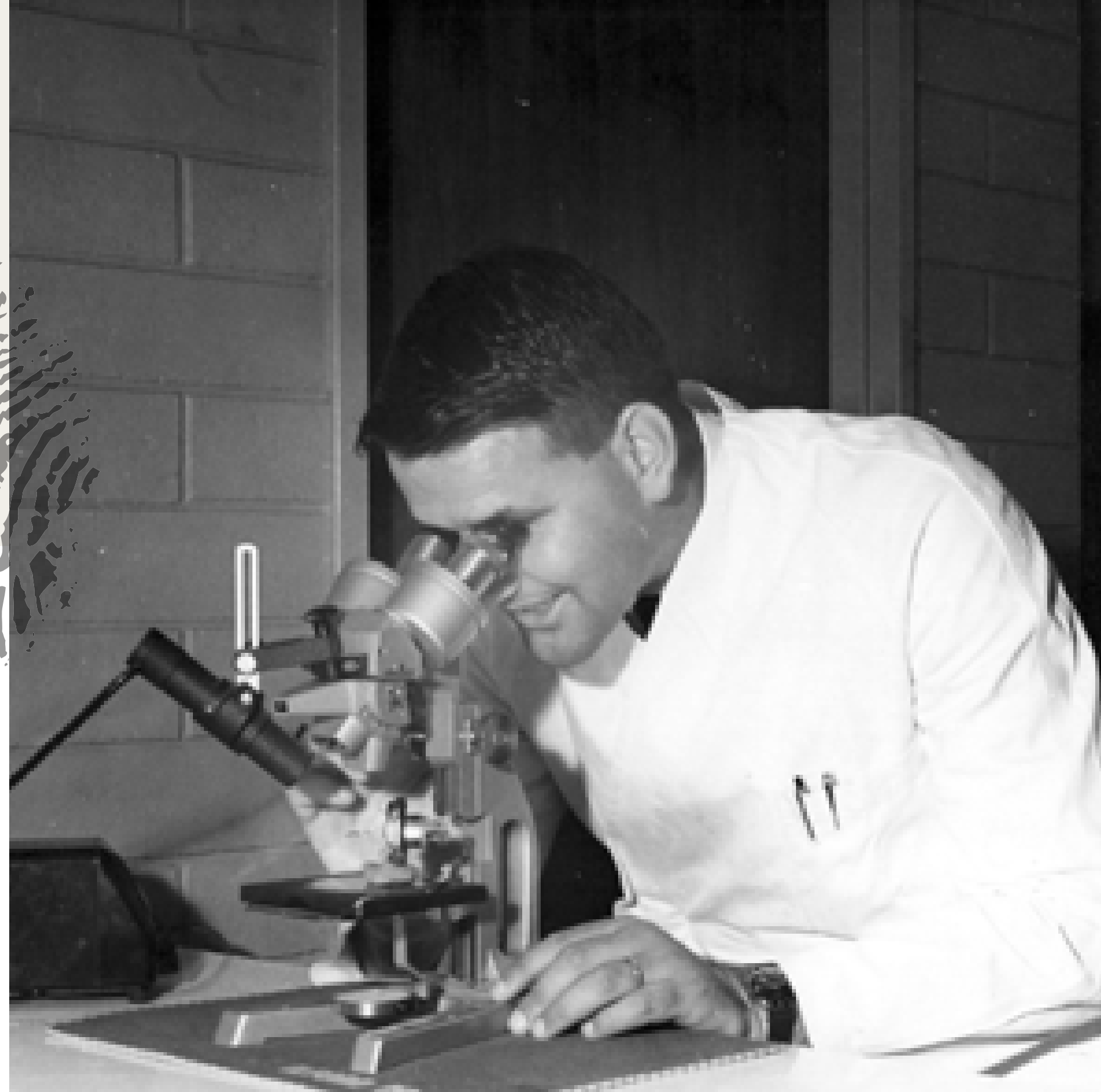
The stolen items were examined by Sergeant Ian Broomby of the ACT Fingerprint Section. Fingerprints were found on the plastic packets containing the jumpers. The right thumb of Andrew William Maloney was identified several times.

The matter went to court with the defendant, Maloney, granted bail.

Evidence was presented, for the first time in the ACT, by Sergeant Broomby. Expert evidence had previously been provided by qualified experts from the Central Fingerprint Bureau in Sydney.

Mr Maloney was found guilty by the Supreme Court on 6 November 1972 and received two years imprisonment.

Sergeant Ian Broomby of the ACT Police (Fingerprint Section)
examining fingerprints — circa 1966





1974

Cyclone Tracy

The northern Australian city of Darwin was devastated on Christmas morning 1974 when hit by the tropical weather depression, Cyclone Tracy.

As the eye of the cyclone passed over the city between midnight and 7am torrential rain fell and the winds were officially recorded at 217 kilometres per hour prior to the Bureau of Meteorology anemometer being destroyed.

Houses and other buildings disintegrated under the onslaught, accompanied by the sounds of flying debris and breaking glass.

Tracy killed 71 people, caused \$837 million in damage and destroyed more than 70 per cent of Darwin's buildings and houses. Tracy left more than 41 000 out of Darwin's 47 000 population homeless and required

the evacuation of more than 30 000 people. Most of Darwin's population was evacuated to Adelaide, Whyalla, Alice Springs and Sydney, and many never returned to the city.

All public services — communications, power, water and sewerage — were severed.

Major-General Alan Stretton, Director-General of the Natural Disasters Organisation, was placed in charge of the rescue effort. Emergency committees, of high-level public servants and police, were established to deal with such matters as accommodation, clean-up, clothing, communications, evacuation, food, law and order, sanitation and health and social welfare.

Members receive a briefing prior to deployment — 1974
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The city of Darwin was devastated by the 1974 cyclone
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The defence forces along with State and Territory police, and for the first time operating outside Canberra, members of ACT Policing, played a major role in cleaning up the city and suburbs. Rescue efforts are now dubbed “the largest humanitarian or disaster relief operation ever performed in Australia”.

Forty-nine ACT Police members were deployed to assist recovery efforts, and undertook general policing duties in Darwin in support of the Northern Territory Police.

For the next six months access to the city was regulated by means of a permit system.

ACT Police members helping with recovery efforts in Darwin
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Constable Julie Burns with a happy Cyclone Tracy survivor
— 1974
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission was established in February 1975 to plan, coordinate and undertake the rebuilding of Darwin. Between 1975 and 1978 the Commission coordinated many construction projects including the building or repair of more than 2500 homes.

Bruce Stannard of *The Age* had said that Cyclone Tracy was a “disaster of the first magnitude ... without parallel in Australia's history.” It remains the most compact cyclone or equivalent-strength hurricane on record in the Australian basin.



1975

The ACT meets Constable Kenny Koala

What do we want? No trouble!

Constable Kenny Koala first appeared on Canberra television in September 1975 as a guest in a show called *Junior Police 7*, which aired on Capital television. *Senior Police 7* was a community service program of police news that was shown once a week and *Junior Police 7* was the version for kids, hosted by ACT police officers Dave Wilson and Carol Lovegrove.

By 1982 *Junior Police 7* was renamed *Constable Kenny on Duty* with Kenny taking a leading role in interviewing various people around town, building and promoting safety messages into each segment. The show aired until 1987.

His ‘frantic’ and police child-like character evolved through *Junior Police 7*. He was always getting things wrong, and officer Lovegrove would have to correct him. In this way, kids were able to identify with Constable Kenny and his faults, and the ACT Police were able to deliver important safety and crime prevention messages in a meaningful way.

The first Constable Kenny puppet was made out of a bath mat by the then Commissioner’s secretary. It was later modernised when Constable Kenny was mistaken for a rabbit while interviewing a police dog.

In the 1980s Constable Kenny received his first police car: a 1967 Toyota Corolla. The car was originally found at a dump, but was saved and made into police car specifically for him.

This vehicle number plate has remained, and has been used on Constable Kenny’s 1994 Daihatsu Charade, Hyundai Accent and Kia Cerato (all of which have been kindly sponsored by AVIS).

Constable Kenny Koala’s television program *Constable Kenny on Duty* aired until 1987

The first Constable Kenny Koala with Commissioner Sir Colin Woods in 1979
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

In 2011 Constable Kenny Koala received his first badge number — 23 — in memory of late Detective Superintendent Ron Dillon, who had been instrumental in the development of Constable Kenny Koala, having introduced *Police 7* to air.

He was also promoted to Leading Senior Constable that same year.

Constable Kenny is still a popular character delivering safety messages to more than 20 000 children each year through educational school visits, and after more than 30 years on the scene, has become a Canberra institution.

To his younger fans, he is known to have grown up in Blue Gum Lane, in the Corin forest. His parents died in a fire which was accidently lit, but because someone was careless with matches. That’s why he turned to crime-fighting and making sure children know how to be and stay safe.

Constable Kenny Koala with friend Stewart Waters in 2011

The new look Constable Kenny was launched in 2013 to appeal to a modern-day youth audience

In 2013 a rebranded Constable Kenny Koala was launched to appeal to a modern-day audience, with his character becoming more ‘Disney-like’.

Along with this new look was the constablekenny.org.au website, featuring information, videos and interactive activities for children aged 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Teachers can also now book a Constable Kenny visit online.

Constable Kenny has had many friends over the years, including Sergeant Bill Mackey (referred to as Sergeant Bully or Bullfrog) who appeared with him on Constable Kenny on Duty.

Stewart Waters took over the Constable Kenny reins in 2002, and continues to be his handler to this day.

1976

A suburban policing strategy



When the Belconnen Division was established in 1976, it adapted the traditional English ‘bobby on the beat’ concept to suit the developing Belconnen region.

Every police officer stationed at the Belconnen Police Station was given one of the district’s 20-plus suburbs to police. The objective of ‘suburban policing’ as it became known was to ensure members got to know their suburbs by talking with residents and shopkeepers and visiting schools, social and welfare organisations and youth clubs.

This closer knowledge of the community would enable them to identify potential crime trouble spots and criminal behaviour, recognise areas which needed a greater focus, and help people manage problems before they got out of hand.

This strategy was revitalised with a greater focus on community engagement under Chief Police Officer for the ACT Audrey Fagan in 2007, and again under the leadership of Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaedvlieg in 2013, taking the strategy ‘back to basics’.

The concept is still in place today and continues to be known as ACT Policing’s Suburban Policing Strategy.

Constable Carol Lovegrove out and about at the Traffic Centre as part of the Suburban Policing Strategy
— circa 1970s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1976

Belconnen Police Station — 35 years



ACT Policing’s No 3 (Belconnen) Division began on 23 August 1976 when the Belconnen Police Station — the first purpose-built police station in Canberra’s north — was officially opened. It was one of the first pieces of infrastructure in the Belconnen Town Centre.

The station was joined to the Belconnen Remand Centre (built to house 16 men and three women), the holding place for anyone who was remanded in custody. At the time there was no jail in the ACT, so convicted detainees were sent to NSW jails such as the Goulburn Correctional Centre.

Belconnen had a population of about 58 000 and was made up of 22 suburbs in 1976. There were three suburban shopping centres.

The (now former) Belconnen Police Station celebrated its 35-year anniversary in August 2011, and in a rare event, 18 of the original members from the 1976 station opening photo were present at an afternoon tea in recognition of the significant milestone. Former members included Ray Kristiansen, Mick Craft, John Rundle, Terry Butler, Don Holmes, Alan Paterson, Bill Quade, Chris Ryan, Zac Busacker, Brian Whinnen, Ron Cameron, Stuart Yorston, John Dau, Terry Palmer, Brad Johnson, Dennis Hend, Arthur Reilly and Peter Dawson.

The station closed its doors on 30 January 2012. The new Belconnen Police Station now stands on the corner of Market Street and Benjamin Way.

The official opening of the Belconnen Police Station in August 1976
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1977

The original 'blue'



The original 'blue' — Blue Dog — joined the 'force' in December 1977 after showing up at the Water Police office before now retired Sergeant Dick Thrift.

Senior Constable Blue Dog, as he became known, made his home in a 44 gallon drum (with mat) and became such an accepted part of the Water Police that its members managed to convince the AFP to pay for his food and vet bills.

In an article published in the Australian Federal Police Association Journal of November 1981, Blue Dog was described by Bruce Nelson as being “renowned for his watchdog abilities”. Other members recalled his diligent and protective nature.

“He was quite tolerant of members in uniform but in typical cattle dog fashion disliked anyone unfamiliar, that is, anyone not in uniform,” former Sergeant Thrift said.

He also had a dislike of police diving wetsuits and was responsible for the destruction of a number of them.

“Blue Dog loved to go for rides in our police boats. He would often ride on the front of the boat and if he wasn’t satisfied with the driver’s navigating, he would jump off with his piece of wood in his mouth and swim home.”

He also appeared on *Police 7* on Capital Television, and was also featured in *The Canberra Times*.

Senior Constable Blue Dog on ‘patrol’ in a Hamilton boat on Lake Burley Griffin — circa 1978
Image courtesy of Bruce Nelson



It wasn’t until 1983 however that the first official police dog was introduced in the ACT: Senior Constable Kaiser.

By 2004 ACT Policing had 10 dogs trained in the fields of drug detection, explosive and firearm detection and general purpose canines used for tracking, crowd control, protection and the apprehension of armed offenders.

Sadly in the mid-1980s Blue Dog was laid to rest at Water Police — the waterfront adjacent to the flag pole — having suffered from progressive cancer. Blue Dog’s grave is undisturbed to this day. His photograph (portrait) remains in the hallway of the Water Operations office at Yarralumla Bay.

First Constable Gary Baker with police dog Kaiser at a training exercise at the old Barton Five buildings in 1983
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

Senior Constable Kaiser’s warrant card — 1983
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum



1979

The Sydney Hilton Hotel bombing in 1978 was a catalyst for the formation of the AFP

The AFP is operational

While discussions and reviews took place prior to 1978 about the formation of a national federal police, the attack on the Sydney Hilton Hotel that year was the catalyst for the creation of the Australian Federal Police. The Australian Government realised an organisation was needed to deal with issues such as terrorism at a national level.

Only weeks after the 13 February 1978 bombing, which took place during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting, the Australian Government commissioned former London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Robert Mark to report to the Minister for Administrative Services John McLeay on the organisation of police resources in the Commonwealth arena.



In his report, tabled in Parliament on 13 April 1978, Sir Robert concluded that, from a police point of view, three options were available. The first was to expand the role of the Commonwealth Police to include the functions of the ACT Police. The second was to expand the role of ACT Police to include the functions of the Commonwealth Police, and third was to abolish both forces and create a new police organisation.

Sir Robert recommended the last of the options, which was supported by Parliament in June 1979 and gave rise to the founding of the AFP on 19 October the same year. On this date in 1979, the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* was proclaimed enabling members of the Commonwealth Police and the ACT Police to be appointed to the two business units of the AFP which involved providing 1134 officers to general policing (incorporating community policing in the ACT) and 1443 officers to protective services.

For the general policing component, the Commonwealth Police provided 544 investigators, and the ACT Police 581 police officers. The protective service component comprised entirely officers who had previously performed a guarding role with the Commonwealth Police. Both groups were supported by 375 public servants. Around 80 members of the Federal Narcotics Bureau became part of the AFP in early November.

Deputy Commissioner Roy Farmer of the Commonwealth Police and Deputy Commissioner John Johnson of the ACT Police were pivotal in creating the AFP, and in determining its necessary details.

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For more than 30 years
the AFP has delivered
the full spectrum of
community policing
services to the people of
Canberra.

.....

Sir Colin Woods is sworn in as the first Commissioner of the
AFP — 1979

.....

Sir Colin Woods makes his first formal address to the
collected senior officers of the Commonwealth and
ACT Police — 1979

In September 1979 the first Commissioner of the AFP was sworn-in: Sir Colin Woods, formerly of the Metropolitan Police in London and from 1977–1979 Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

For more than 30 years the AFP has delivered the full spectrum of community policing services to the people of Canberra. This made possible through a unique and mature arrangement between the Australian and ACT Governments, introduced in 2000, and after self-government in 1989.

The five-year Policing Arrangement, last signed in June 2012, provides the legislative structures which enable the AFP to deliver policing services to the ACT, in accordance with an annual Purchase Agreement. The agreement, between the ACT Government and the AFP is a fee-for-service contractual arrangement detailing the goods and services purchased by the ACT from the AFP. It also sets out approximately 32 key performance indicators under a series of outputs: Crime and Safety Management; Traffic Law Enforcement and Road Safety; Prosecution and Judicial Support; and Crime Prevention.

For the ACT, this relationship means access to world-renowned specialist skills in the areas of forensics, high-tech crime, disaster victim identification, intelligence and organised crime. It also provides, as experienced with many a presidential visit, the 2003 Canberra bushfires and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay, a ready reserve workforce of 6500-plus members.

The arrangement also facilitates the movement of staff between ACT Policing and the national areas of the AFP, allowing for constant rejuvenation and the transference of invaluable experiences and skills across the organisation.

.....

Left to right: Chief Police Officer for the ACT (Assistant
Commissioner) Roman Quaadvlieg, Minister for Police and
Emergency Services Simon Corbell, and AFP Commissioner
Tony Negus sign the annual *Purchase Agreement* at
Winchester Police Centre — 2010



1979

Before being known as the Barton College, Lawley House was one of two government hostels on Brisbane Avenue — circa 1970s
Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

Barton College

Since 1979 the AFP College in Barton (commonly known as Barton College) has been an integral part of the AFP since its inception more than 30 years ago.

Originally named Lawley House, the College is more than 60 years old, and is one of Canberra's older buildings.

The building opened in 1949 as part of a network of hostels built to deal with the accommodation shortage for public servants relocating to Canberra. Lawley House was one of two government hostels located on Brisbane Avenue. The other, Barton House, was torn down in the early 1980s and replaced by apartment buildings.



Lawley House was reborn as the Commonwealth Police Training Centre in 1978.

The conversion to a police training facility was a fairly brutal process, as former Commonwealth Police training sergeant Barry Boyce recalls: “When the Commonwealth Police moved in, everything to the east of the main foyer was designated accommodation and everything to the west was training and office space,” he said. “The training rooms were made by knocking down adjoining walls of individual sleeping quarters. If a training room needed to be larger it was just a case of knocking down more walls.”

When the AFP was formed in 1979, the name of the building was officially renamed the Australian Federal Police College, and courses were revamped to align the new organisation and its dual mandate — national investigations and community policing.

The accommodation wing remains largely unchanged from the original fit-out and is made up of mostly single bedrooms with a small desk and wardrobe, a sink, a heater and a window. There were small lounge rooms at the intersection of each hallway with toilet and shower facilities adjacent.

“

The AFP College has been part of the lives of almost all AFP recruits since 1979 and the beginning of many policing careers and friendships.

.....
The inside of a typical Barton College bedroom in 1980
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

The Commissioner’s Dining room is still used for small formal occasion — 2013

The College closed for renovations in May 1994 and reopened in November 1996. From the beginning, the renovations were designed to be sympathetic to the building’s heritage, ensuring the best aesthetic values of the structure were maintained while incorporating modern communications, training and hospitality facilities. There were countless innovations made inside the building including a revamp of the sleeping quarters to motel-style rooms complete with ensuites. The most obvious change was the addition of a portico to the front entrance and the construction of the central three-storey axis which housed a much-needed centralised ground floor administrative centre and a two-storey library.

Also much needed was the 80-seat lecture theatre fitted out with the latest audio-visual equipment.

The College has gone from strength to strength, but it is much more than an inventory of bricks and mortar. The AFP College has been part of the lives of almost all AFP recruits since 1979 and the beginning of many policing careers and friendships. As individual careers have developed, the College has played a significant role in the education and training of both sworn and unsworn members. Graduation photographs are displayed proudly on the walls in the western wing, and the remainder of the building is decorated with images and objects of significance to the AFP.

.....
The front entry foyer to the Barton College — 2012



1980

Weston Police Complex opens

In August 1980 the AFP Services Centre at Weston (the Weston Complex) was opened by then Minister for Administrative Services John McLeay and AFP Commissioner Sir Colin Woods.

The Weston Complex was built to house ACT Policing, and also provided training rooms and a parade ground where recruit graduations were held.

The recruit campus at Weston was separate to the services complex which housed traffic operations and its maintenance garages, forensics, information technology and Criminal Records.

The AFP Museum occupied what was previously training space in Building G. For several years the AFP Museum proved a popular destination for local and interstate student excursions until the security implications of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States caused the AFP to re-evaluate public access to all its establishments.

.....
Minister for Administrative Services John McLeay with Sir Colin Woods at the ceremony to mark the opening of the AFP Services Centre — 1980
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times
.....

The AFP Services Centre at Weston (the Weston Complex) was opened by the Minister for Administrative Services John McLeay seen here with Sir Colin Woods (and Peter Dawson) inspecting parade members — 1980
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times

For a period of time the Weston Complex also housed Specialist Response and Security, including the Tactical and Bomb Response teams.

In 2000 the forensic laboratory at the Weston Complex was completed. The state-of-the-art laboratory was a tangible demonstration of the increasing capability and sophistication of the AFP's forensic services. At the opening of the new facility, then AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer told Minister for Justice and Customs Amanda Vanstone that "AFP

.....
Ian Herbie Prior, a firearms and ballistics expert, working out of the Weston Complex in the 1990s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

The AFP Museum at the Weston Complex was open to the public for a period of time — circa 1990s
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

forensic resources were now world-class", as were its scientists, citing a small but significant example of this expertise: "During the year AFP scientists developed a technique to detect fingerprints on difficult surfaces such polymer bank notes by the use of vacuum metal deposition technology."

The Weston Complex, which will close in the coming years, still houses AFP Forensic and Data Centres. The Forensic Facility in Majura is due to open in around 2015.



1982

Random Breath Testing introduced

In 1982 when random breath testing was introduced it was touted as an attack on the working class and anyone who enjoyed a beer at the local pub. Today we credit this move with saving thousands of lives and significantly reducing the road toll across the nation.

In February 1982 the Fraser Cabinet considered the recommendations given by the House of Representatives committee report titled *Alcohol, Drugs and Road Safety*. The Cabinet agreed in principle to support the introduction of random breath testing nationally, although expressed ‘grave reservations’ about the invasion of privacy involved in testing citizens for alcohol.

Road accidents in 1980-81 cost the Commonwealth Government \$100 million and at least one third of adults killed in road collisions had significant blood-alcohol levels.

Random breath testing was introduced in the ACT in December 1982 when the blood alcohol limit was 0.08.

The ‘Blow in the Bag’ breathalyser was used prior to the current re-usable self-calibrating units. A motorist was asked to ‘blow in the bag’ fitted with a tube containing dichromate crystals. If the crystal colour changed to green above the yellow line, the test was deemed positive. The motorist would then attend a police station to undertake a breathalyser test, conducted by a specialist operator. The breathalyser had to be calibrated before and after each test.

ACT Policing’s RBT truck was introduced in 2001 to undertake roadside operations



Nowadays the technology in the new machines (introduced in 2006) isn’t that different from the machines in 1982, however they are much more accurate and can be used many times before needing recalibrating, allowing many more effective RBTs to be conducted. And there is no blowing into a bag of crystals, just a tube.

Random breath testing was a significant development in society, and people began to question the moral and social implications of drink-driving.

After more than three decades since police were given powers to randomly stop motorists; and charging those that were found to have a

The ‘blow in the bag’ breathalyser introduced in 1982

Traffic Operations set up an RBT station on Commonwealth Avenue — 2011



blood-alcohol content over their prescribed limit through breath tests, thousands of lives are said to have been saved.

Prior to the introduction of random breath tests (or RBTs) the national road toll stood at more than 3300 people per year. In 2011 it had fallen to fewer than 1400, despite a huge increase in the number of people on the road and kilometres driven.

From 2007–12 more than 540 000 RBTs have been conducted by ACT Policing. The number of RBTs carried out by police has increased significantly over the years, but motorists are still getting caught. In 1999, 1053 people were charged by ACT Policing for drink-driving offences. In 2012, more than 1200 had been charged.

Traffic Infringement Notices were also introduced in 1982.

1982

Opening of Tuggeranong Police Station



The first Tuggeranong Police Station at Erindale was opened in 1982, the second police station to open in the ACT's most southern region.

For 15 years the building served the fledging housing developments in the Tuggeranong Valley, which was quickly expanding.

The station was originally staffed by one station sergeant and seven constables, to cater for approximately 42 000 residents of Tuggeranong. It operated with only one patrol car, covering morning and afternoon shifts.

Prior to the opening of Tuggeranong Police Station, policing in Tuggeranong came under the command of the Woden Police Station.

The doors to the new Tuggeranong Police Station opened for business in December 1997. The \$6 million building replaced the station at nearby Erindale, and was built on the corner of Anketell Street and Soward Way in the newly constructed Tuggeranong Town Centre, where it stands today.

The new station was almost five times the size of the original station, and accommodated up to 120 staff. It also included a medical room, interview rooms, holding cells, a gymnasium and locker room and electronic key access.

Superintendent Alan Castle was the first to head up the new station, with a staff of 76 responsible for delivering a full range of policing services to the then population of 90 000.

.....
The original Tuggeranong Police Station in Erindale in the early 1980s

1984

Milosevic family murders



In 1984 Radmila Milosevic, her defacto husband Tony, and their two young children were found murdered in their Richardson home, raising suspicions about the true nature of a motor vehicle collision in December 1981 in which two other members of the same family — sisters — had died.

After reviewing the case detectives Rick Ninness and Tom McQuillen re-created the 1981 single vehicle collision. They found that the collision was unlikely to have rendered the Milosevic sisters unconscious or start a fire, which the coroner had originally considered to be the cause of the death.

The investigation led to the bodies of the two sisters exhumed, establishing conclusively that they had been murdered; shot prior to being placed in the car, and then set alight.

A Queanbeyan man, Allen Thompson, a family friend who had been dating one of the Milosevic sisters, was arrested. Eventually, he was found guilty of all six murders and was sentenced to six terms of life imprisonment.

The investigation was the subject of a one-hour documentary in the Forensic Investigators television series which first aired in 2004. At the time of the murders Thompson was believed to be Australia's worst killer.

.....
Forensic officers exhume the bodies of two sisters thought to have died in a motor vehicle collision — 1984

1985

Neighbourhood
Watch in the ACT



In 1985 the first Neighbourhood Watch program was introduced by ACT Policing in response to an intense period of housebreakings, armed robberies and motor vehicle theft. The program expanded to 19 watch areas in the same year.

By July 1985 housebreakings had reduced considerably and there was an increase in community awareness of other criminal activities. Then AFP Commissioner Major General Ron Grey was moved to tell the minister: “The ACT Region deserves commendation for its service in policing the ACT, in my view it is second-to-none in the effective law enforcement role of similar size and structured communities within Australia.”

Neighbourhood Watch remains a vital a community-based crime prevention program aimed at the protection of property and personal safety at a local level.

The Neighbourhood Watch logo introduced in the ACT in 1985

1985

Hostage drama
in the CBD



At 3pm on 25 January 1985, Detective Sergeant Allan Heathcote and (then) Dectective Senior Constable Gary Cannon of the Criminal Investigations Branch were on duty at City Police Station when a call was received from Police Communications advising them of a hostage situation in progress. The incident was taking place at a sports store located on the first floor of a building in East Row, Canberra City.

It was revealed that the sports store sold guns and ammunition, and that a man was holding two hostages at gunpoint in the shop.

Sergeants Heathcote and Cannon proceeded to evacuate the entire street along East Row and cordon-off the area. Members from several operational areas of ACT Policing including general duties, traffic and the Special Operations Team were called in to provide assistance. A command post was set up by Inspector Kevin McTavish in the Terminus Tavern, located directly underneath the sports store.

Police Negotiators were called to the scene and made contact with the man who was in his early 20s. The man was distraught over the breakdown of his relationship with a girlfriend, and was holding the owner of the sports store and a customer hostage.

The situation deteriorated significantly on several occasions and the young man opened fire with a high powered semi-automatic weapon, then legally obtainable in the ACT, on police vehicles parked within sight of the shop. Several of them were badly damaged but no members of the public or police were injured or killed.

The East Row area of the Central Business District was paralysed for several hours as police negotiated patiently with the man who eventually released his hostages and surrendered to police at about 3am the next morning.

A young man opened fire on vehicles during a 12-hour hostage incident in 1985

1986

A visit from Pope John Paul II



Pope John Paul II arrived in Australia for a five-day tour in 1986, with Canberra the first city on the much-anticipated tour.

A unique arrangement between federal and State police forces was brought into operation to ensure the safety of Pope.

The highly-trained composite unit comprised three members from AFP Protection and three members from each of the other State and Territory police forces including ACT Policing. A total of 24 officers provided the Pope with 24-hour protection.

All were trained in VIP protection and at any particular moment, the Pope was under the close protection of 12 men. A second team of 12 was involved in a leapfrog operation, moving from the previous venue to the one following.

Planning, for up to 150 000 people, had been underway for some months before the Pope touched down in Fairbairn. While Church representatives preferred a venue of national significance for the Papal Mass, the mass was held at the Canberra Race Course at the insistence of ACT Policing, for several operational reasons including parking, traffic management and crowd control.

Then Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Francis P. Carroll wrote that “As host Archbishop for the recent visit to Canberra by Pope John Paul II” he wanted to thank everyone involved in enabling the event to be such a smooth-running, untroubled, joyous occasion.

More than 90 000 Canberrans attended the mass, with all security managed by ACT Policing, led by Inspector Peter Curtis as Operational Commander. The final result was an almost text-book operation.

.....
Pope John Paul II greets fans at the Canberra Race Course

— 1986

Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1988

A new Parliament House



On 9 May 1988 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the permanent (new) Parliament House on Capital Hill — the anniversary of the opening of both the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne on 9 May 1901 and of the Provisional (Old) Parliament House in Canberra in 1927.

Planning for the event was no less extensive or meticulous than for the 1927 opening, but 1980s technology permitted millions to share the experience through live television broadcasts, video recordings and special colour supplements in major newspapers. And this time, it was the AFP and ACT Policing who policed the event.

AFP Commissioner at the time, Major General Ronald Grey, said that “Resources will be stretched when the new Parliament House opens. Its size, complex design and landscaped grounds will be difficult to police, particularly during demonstrations ... and will reduce the total number of police available in the ACT for unexpected emergent situations; situations that could well arise forcing the AFP to call on the NSW Police Force for assistance.”

More than 500 AFP officers were on duty for the opening of the new Parliament House, securing the building (costing \$1.1 billion), protecting visiting dignitaries, ensuring crowd control, and providing traffic law enforcement as well general duties policing, in and around Parliament House.

.....
More than 500 AFP officers were on duty for the opening of Parliament House in Australia’s bicentenary in 1988

1988

Hold-up in the Canberra Building Society



May 1988: A man attempted to commit fraud on a building society in Canberra city and after threatening police with a .45 revolver, John Shakar, who had prior bank robbery convictions, was shot dead.

Police had staked out the Canberra Building Society on the corner of Northbourne Avenue and Bunda Street, after a tip-off from staff. Mr Shakar had previously deposited a cheque for \$48 206 in an account he established under a false name. The cheque was one of a number reported stolen in a break-and-enter in Sydney.

When Mr Shakar returned to withdraw the funds, he was approached by detectives and immediately produced a gun ordering them to the floor. He then ran out of the bank and along Northbourne Avenue before leaping into an unattended delivery van.

Mr Shakar was shot when he pointed his gun at police from the driver's seat. He died in the ambulance on the way to The Royal Canberra Hospital.

.....
Police and officers at the scene of the 1988 shooting

A shopfront first

1988



In December 1988 Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester opened Canberra's first shopfront — his last official function as Commander ACT Region, and ironically, one of the first milestones along the path to realising his goal of bringing the AFP closer to the people of Canberra.

The shopfront facility in City Walk was located at the Mort Street end of City Walk (close to where King O'Malley's now stands), in the heart of the central business district, and housed the first set of Closed Circuit Television monitors in Canberra.

Superintendent Mal McGregor, responsible for the operation of the Civic 'kiosk' said "the shopfront presents our officers with a concept of policing different to the normal general duties work ... walking the beat allows police to interact with other people more frequently."

The shopfront concept can be traced back to the formation of Canberra's City Beat Squad — led by Sergeant Terry Barry (now deceased) — which worked out of the City Patrol Branch. The squad was set up in April 1988 specifically to undertake foot patrols in and around the city centre in response to increasing social and behavioural problems. The squad was said to have been created following the brutal murder of Bente Mosessen. Her body was discovered in the Uriarra Forest, to the west of Canberra, in April that year. She had been last seen outside a nightclub in Civic.

The introduction of the City Beats Squad had encouraging results, and there was an immediate steep decline in the number of reported offences.

In December 1997 the shopfront moved from City Walk to larger premises in Garema Place.

The Garema Place facility was de-commissioned in May 2011, following a review of the efficacy of maintaining that facility, and the limited services it then provided.

.....
Deputy Commissioner Roy Farmer walks out of the City Walk shopfront — 1988
.....

.....
Constable Allison Hutcheson at the former Garema Place shopfront which was used during peak periods in the late 1990s

1989–2013



Foundations for the future

The year 1989 marked the end of innocence for the AFP, with the assassination of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester; in charge of policing in the ACT at the time.

This era also witnessed the rapid emergence of ‘high tech crime’ and the online world. Technology, the web, social media, all made life easier, but also created a whole new landscape for criminal behaviour. And as criminals became more sophisticated, so did police.

Canberra continued to grow with ACT Policing following suit.

The ACT Policing headquarters — the Winchester Police Centre in Belconnen — was opened in 1994, and new stations were built in the areas of Tuggeranong (1997), Gungahlin (1998) and Woden (2005), with the new Belconnen Police Station opening in 2012.

As the community policing arm of the AFP, ACT Policing developed into a modern, highly effective police service of 950-plus members — often leading Australia in many progressive initiatives.

The development of the Autocite handheld ticketing terminal in 1994 was a world-first. So was embedding mental health clinicians within ACT Policing Operations. And there was the introduction of RAPID in 2010, automated number plate recognition technology, leading the way in removing the highest risk takers — unregistered vehicles and unlicensed drivers — from ACT roads.

Five police stations across the ACT and a headquarters in Belconnen housing ACT Policing Operations, ACT Policing Intelligence, Criminal Investigations and a number of support elements, now provide the full spectrum of policing services to the people of Canberra.



1989

Detective Sergeant Bob Lehmann and police with the car in which Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester was shot in his neighbour's driveway — 1989
Image courtesy of Jon Beale

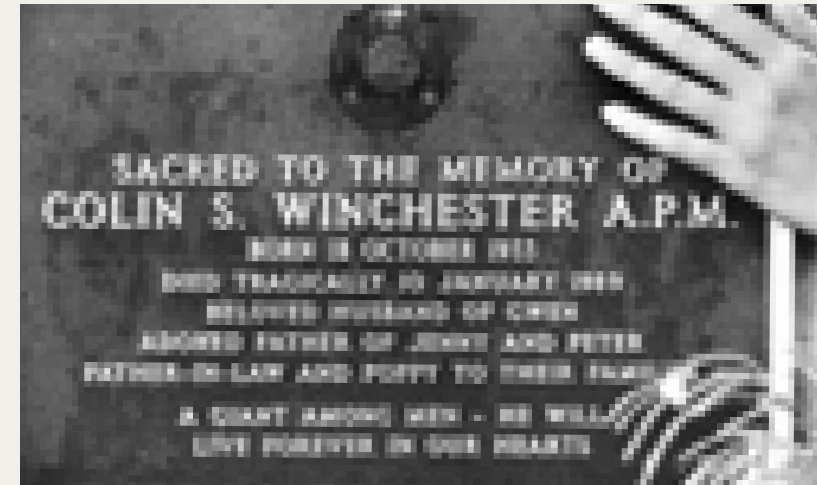
The murder of Colin Winchester

It was, by any measure, a cold-blooded and brutal murder. On 10 January 1989, the ACT's top police officer, Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester, was shot twice in the head at point-blank range in his neighbour's driveway in Deakin.

The murder shattered the peace of a Canberra summer and reverberated across the nation, inflaming public opinion.

Colin Winchester's death sparked one of the more complex criminal investigations in Australian history. It ran for more than five years, with numerous lines of inquiry.

In 1995, David Harold Eastman, an aggrieved former public servant, was found guilty of the murder by the unanimous verdict of the jury, and was sentenced to life imprisonment.



The verdict was the culmination of Operation PEAT, involving a large team of ACT Policing detectives, led by now-retired Detective Chief Superintendent Rick Ninness. The case proved that Eastman’s motives were two-fold — the first being his hatred for those in the public service against whom he had waged a prolonged campaign, and the second being perceived injustices resulting from a dispute with his neighbour.

The jury found that Assistant Commissioner Winchester had become the focal point of Eastman’s rage.

The jury heard that Eastman had attended a brothel on the night of the murder, but this was not deemed a sufficient alibi for his movements that evening, and the convicted man had very little recollection of his own actions.

Forensic investigations revealed that Winchester was shot with PMC-brand ammunition, fired from a .22 calibre Ruger 10/22 semi-automatic rifle fitted with a silencer. Subsequent forensic examination of the boot of Eastman’s car revealed residue from PMC ammunition which was said to be indistinguishable from residue at the murder scene.

Eastman had asserted that he had only bought guns because he had been in fear of his neighbour.

“
Police were working on a high-profile investigation complicated by mass media interest, rumour and innuendo. In addition ... they were investigating the brutal slaying of one of their own.

.....
Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester’s funeral at St. Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka — 1989
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum
.....

Police provide an official escort at Colin Winchester’s funeral — 1989
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times

Eastman’s trial began in the ACT Supreme Court on 2 May 1995 and concluded seven months later.

The investigation into Colin Winchester’s death was, in some ways, a coming-of-age for the AFP. Police were working on a high-profile investigation complicated by mass media interest, rumour and innuendo. In addition to this, the officers were investigating the brutal slaying of one of their own, a stark reminder of the inherent risks of the job.

Assistant Commissioner Winchester first served in law enforcement with the ACT Police and then in both national and community policing after the AFP’s formation in 1979, for a total of 27 years. In 1977 he was awarded a National Medal and in 1987 the Australian Police Medal in the Australia Day Honours.

“An Australian in the best sense of the word” is how then Acting Assistant Commissioner (ACT Region) Alan Mills described Colin Winchester. “Highly regarded ... hard working ... a larrikin ... and a true professional.”

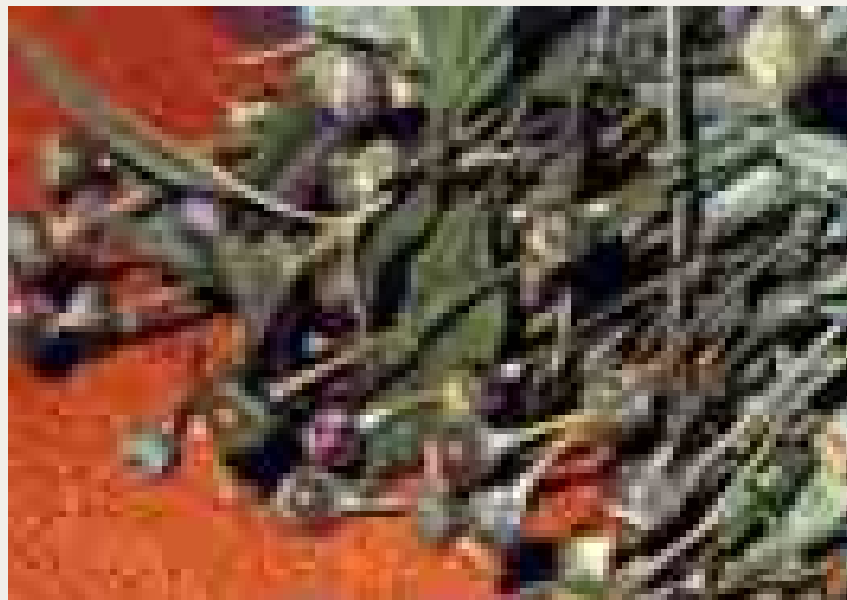
Colin Winchester was survived by his wife and two children. He remains the most senior public official, and police officer, to be assassinated in Australian history.

In 2012 Eastman was successful in securing a broad-ranging inquiry into his conviction.

.....
A plaque in memory of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester

1990

*Opium seized in
the ACT*



In December 1990 a 27-year-old Canberra man was charged with cultivating cannabis and opium.

ACT Policing seized 133 opium plants, along with 85 cannabis plants. It was the first time police had encountered opium being grown in the ACT.

Around the same time a dedicated Drugs Team was established, said to be a result of an increase in the prevalence of drugs in society. The team is now led by a sergeant with 11 constables, specifically focusing on drug intelligence and high-level investigations.

In the 2011-12 financial year 22 people were charged with manufacturing and growing drugs in the ACT.

.....
ACT Policing made its first opium seizure in the ACT in 1990

1991

AIDEX riots



In November 1991 thousands of protesters blockaded the National Exhibition Centre (NATEX) in Canberra with the goal of shutting down the Australian International Defence Exhibition (AIDEX '91).

Organised in the context of the drive by the Australian Labor Party to double domestic military exports between 1987 and 1992, the event attracted overseas and domestic arms manufacturers and buyers, as well as up to 2000 protesters from across Australia.

A series of rallies were held at Parliament House, and protestors camped across the road from NATEX and picketed its main gates. Tactics as varied as lying passively on the road and setting barricades on fire were employed, causing much debate during and after the event.

There had been a similar demonstration at the previous AIDEX exhibition, held in 1989, which occurred in the wake of recent disruptive protest activity around issues including rainforest imports and old-growth logging as well as events such as the first Gulf War.

Over 12 days AIDEX '91 resulted in the highest number of arrests in the ACT since the Vietnam era. Although the exhibition was eventually able to go ahead, the blockades caused considerable disruption.

Media coverage was widespread and sensational, leading many protesters to complain of misrepresentation.

The protest was also marked by allegations of extensive police violence with 234 arrests were made. Forty police officers were injured.

.....
A protestor is removed by police during an AIDEX riot
— 1991
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1993

*New Jervis Bay
police station*



In June 1993 a new police station was opened in Jervis Bay, designed specifically to comply with the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* report.

Through the AFP's External Territories function, ACT Policing continues to police the Jervis Bay Territory. A team of four officers provide the full range of community policing services including search and rescue, within the small, predominantly Indigenous community. Around 400 people now live in the Territory.

The first Jervis Bay Village Police Station was built in 1956, and was later rebuilt in 1991. Its doors are now used at the police station cottage at the historically-themed Woollamia Village Retreat.

The Jervis Bay Territory comprises about 6677 hectares on the southern shores of Jervis Bay, approximately 200 kilometres south of Sydney (by road).

.....
The new Jervis Bay Territory Police Station, built on the site of the previous station, opened in June 1993
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1993

*Jolimont Centre
under siege*



On 29 November 1993 a man crashed his utility vehicle through the front glass doors of the Jolimont Centre on Northbourne Avenue in Canberra, shot at police and rescue workers, set the building alight and then killed himself.

Later police discovered that before the man violently gained entry to the six-storey centre, he had shot and injured a swimming pool centre manager in a Canberra suburb. Gas bottles were wired to explode in his vehicle, and he threw burning petrol bombs in the main street of the Countrylink travel centre.

Firemen tried to battle the blaze but were hampered by the man shooting at them. Workers in the upper floors of the building were helped out of a smashed side window and down a ladder under the protection of police.

As police surrounded the building, with weapons drawn, the gas cylinders exploded, showering glass into the main street.

When the fires were brought under control, ACT Policing's specialist tactical team, wearing breathing masks, entered the building to find the man dead. He had shot himself in the stomach and his body was badly burned.

.....
Officers at the scene of the 1993 Jolimont siege
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times



1994

Opening of Winchester Police Centre



The Winchester Police Centre in Belconnen was officially opened in 1994, named in memory of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester, who became Chief Police Officer for the ACT in 1987, and was murdered in 1989.

The centre cost \$8 million to rebuild and co-located previously separated areas of ACT Policing in the one building.

The ageing Winchester Police Centre remains ACT Policing's headquarters and houses Criminal Investigations, ACT Policing Intelligence and ACT Policing Operations, as well as support functions including Media and Public Engagement, Ministerial and Operational Support, Finance and Logistics and Human Resources.

Exterior of the Winchester Police Centre — 2013

Former Commissioner Mick Palmer (centre) with members of ACT Policing at the opening of the Winchester Police Centre in 1994



1994

Sergeant Robin Wheeler with his Autocite before its introduction in 1994

Introduction of Autocite

The routine paper-based practice of issuing Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) in the ACT changed dramatically to a world-class procedure in December 1994 with the introduction of the 'Autocite' — a computerised infringement system.

The introduction of Autocite was a genuine international initiative for the AFP, as it was the only police service at the time to introduce handheld computer terminals capable of issuing multiple types of infringements, including TINs, Parking Infringement Notices and Traffic Cautions.

It was in early 1993 that Sergeant Robin Wheeler placed a proposal before a combined AFP and Australian Federal Police Association working party to develop the Autocite. The group had sought to



identify cost savings of 2 per cent within the police budget for the 1994–95 financial year. The project was identified by the working party as one proposal which would assist to deliver cost savings, and was referred to Assistant Commissioner Peter Dawson, then Chief Police Officer for the ACT, for consideration.

An important feature of the initiative was that the system would increase police productivity by reducing the time members spent at the station manually adding infringements, and would also relieve staff members of the requirement to enter TINs manually on the AFP mainframe. In some cases, police were spending up to two hours at stations, entering TINs into the computer system.

“With the new handheld terminals, police would be able to download their notices within minutes, allowing them to remain on patrol for longer periods of time,” Sergeant Wheeler said in his project brief.

Assistant Commissioner Dawson referred the proposal to the ACT Government where it received the full support of Attorney-General Terry Connolly, and the Minister responsible for Urban Services David Lamont. Members from Transport Regulation and the AFP formed a committee to assist in the development of the new system.

“

The introduction of Autocite was a genuine international initiative for the AFP, as it was the only police service at the time to introduce handheld computer terminals capable of issuing multiple types of infringements.

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The introduction of the Autocite was a world-first computerised system capable of issuing multiple types of infringements — 2004



The original cost of developing Autocite was \$310 000.

The implementation team, comprising then Senior Constables Mike Barber and Gabby Toscan, and led by now-retired Sergeant Wheeler, rolled-out the initial 32 terminals.

In 1996 the AFP was recognised for its innovation with the awarding of a Government Technology Productivity Silver Award.

Despite initial scepticism, the Autocite system has issued some 600 000 infringement notices since its inception, which now also includes Criminal Infringement Notices such as ‘deface public premises’.

One of the project instigators, (now) Sergeant Mike Barber, continues to be the point-of-call to this day for technical Autocite issues and said that prior to the system members relied on a hand-written, paper-based infringement system, which is still the case in many States and Territories including NSW.

“Autocite has really changed the way we do business, it’s hard to believe ever being without it,” Sergeant Barber said.

The ACT remains the only jurisdiction with the functionality to issue multiple infringement types using a handheld computer.

.....

Now retired Sergeant Robin Wheeler and (then) Senior Constables Gabby Toscan and Mike Barber on receiving the Government Technology Productivity Silver Award — 1996

1996

Parliament House
demonstrations



The Australian Council of Trade Unions’ called the ‘cavalcade to Canberra’ rallied to protest against the industrial relations reform agenda of the Liberal-National Coalition Howard Government in July 1996.

The protest began with senior Australian Trade Union officials including ACT Union President Jennie George and Assistant Secretary Greg Combet as well as senior members of the Australian Labor Party rallying from a podium outside the front of Parliament House.

The initially peaceful protest deteriorated into violent action when a new group of demonstrators arrived and joined by others, as well as those from the main protest, attacked the entrance to Parliament House, trying to force their way in.

Members of ACT Policing along with tactical and specially trained public order officers responded to the incident.

Around 90 people were injured. Damage to the forecourt and foyer of Parliament House was initially estimated at \$75 000 and the Parliamentary Shop was robbed.

Nine rioters were arrested and charged with a range of offences.

Protestors broke away from a rally organised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions and tried to force their way into the national Parliament of Australia — 1996
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1996

Crime Stoppers ACT



ACT Region Crime Stoppers was officially launched in 1996 to cover the areas of Canberra, Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Yass, Goulburn and Cooma.

Crime Stoppers originated in New Mexico in the United States in 1976 when a frustrated detective called for public assistance for a murder through a local television network. A reward was offered through an anonymous ‘tips line’, as people were not willing to talk to police for fear, and after six weeks, there were still no leads. Within 72 hours of the program going to air, a member of the public phoned in, and the killers were subsequently arrested.

In Australia, the community policing initiative began in Victoria in 1987, and was operating Australia-wide by 1998.

Within ACT Policing it was Detective Senior Constable Derek Gough who championed the cause, and eventually received executive approval to trail the program: “It was different back then, to ask the public to provide information, and to then give a reward for it, let alone through a third party.

“There were concerns around paying criminals for information, about the legitimacy of second-hand information, about public involvement, but I thought, what a great idea, anything that could help us solve a crime was worth the effort. After all, police can’t be everywhere, or know everything!”

The partnership between police, the media and the community is one that encourages anonymous reporting on criminal activity or persons of interest through the 1800 333 000 Crime Stoppers telephone service. The anonymity of the service eliminates fear of involvement or retaliation, with no direct involvement in the investigative process. Information is then passed on to police.

Rewards, of \$1000, are still provided for information that leads to an arrest.

The well-recognised Crime Stoppers logo was refreshed in 2012

1996

Establishment of Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers



In 1996 ACT Policing began a three-month Gay and Lesbian Contact Officer pilot scheme out of City Police Station to improve the relationship with the gay and lesbian community.

The team — of one male and one female officer — along with the success of the pilot program within the community paved the way for further development of the network within the AFP.

In 1997 the AFP renamed the program to the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO) to align with other police jurisdictions.

In 1998 the inaugural two-day training workshop was introduced, delivered by members of the NSW Police Force, and in September 2012 the ‘Sexuality and Diversity’ training package to provide awareness training on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (GLBTI) issues was launched.

Over the years the network has grown in strength and developed structure and protocols that support individuals and managers within the AFP and members of the GLBTI, within the community policing arena.

The AFP GLLO network now has more than 120 registered members who have undertaken specific training to support their GLLO role. The AFP has been recognised on several occasions for its commitment to diversity.

.....
Sergeant Delia Quigley with AFP Commissioner
Tony Negus at the 15th anniversary of the GLLO network
— 2011

1997

Operation AQUATIC



Operation AQUATIC was the investigation into the murder of Ulrike ‘Ricky’ Conway in May 1997 which resulted in the arrest of four people, including her husband, a serving member of the AFP at the time.

The mother of two was found dead in her Canberra home in Evatt. Police suspected Ricky had committed suicide until investigators — and one detective Ben Cartwright — noticed something unusual, the toilet seat had been left up, even though Ricky had been home alone all weekend.

From this initial observation, suspicions grew and an exhaustive investigation was launched into her death. Some thought the detectives were wasting their time, particularly as they began to focus on one of their own. Despite criticism, the investigation continued.

Four people were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 18 to 24 years. The case drew much media attention because of the botched attempt to make the murder appear to be a drug overdose and because her husband, John Conway, was an AFP officer.

The story behind the investigation was documented in John Suter Linton’s novel *An Almost Perfect Murder* in 2006.

.....
A page from John Suter Linton’s novel *An Almost Perfect Murder* — 2006



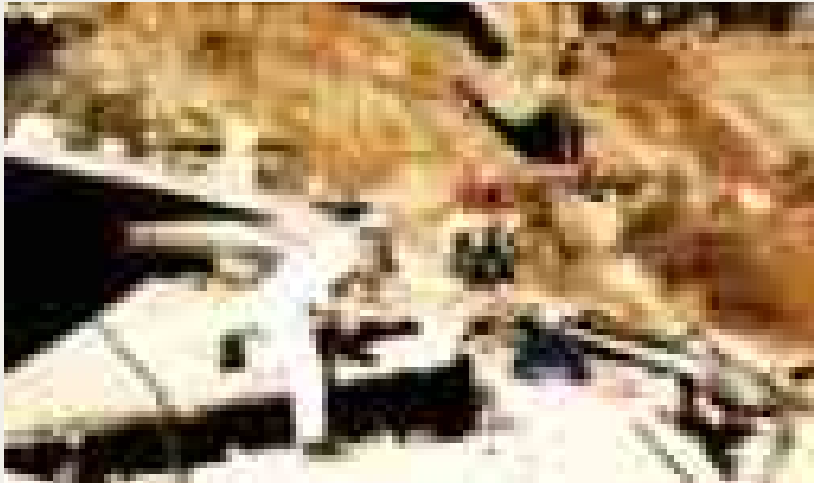
1997

A balloon marker is used at the scene of the Thredbo landslide — 1997

Thredbo landslide

On 30 July 1997 Australia's worst landslide occurred when a large section of steep mountainside below the Alpine Way road collapsed immediately above part of Thredbo Ski Village in NSW. About 3000 tonnes of earth, rock and trees slid down the steep slope, completely destroying the Carinya Lodge, and then the Bimbadeen Lodge multi-level buildings.

At 12.45am, Thursday 31 July, a call was received by the ACT Policing's Search and Rescue team that its members would be needed to assist in recovery efforts. Within the hour, eight members were equipped and on their way.



In the early hours of the rescue it was believed that between 15 and 30 people were missing in what ACT Policing’s Sergeant Warren Williamson described as a scene from his worst nightmare.

The Search and Rescue team joined forces with NSW Police Rescue from Goulburn to immediately evacuate the area and begin rescue efforts. Around 100 emergency workers were on site with more on route coming from Sydney, Goulburn, Cooma, Wollongong and the ACT.

Rescue efforts were hampered by several further minor slides. The harsh environment, steepness of the hill and the instability of the site under darkness posed danger to emergency services personnel which delayed rescue efforts.

It was only after initial assessments were made of the collapsed structure that void areas and effective search methods could be carried out to detect the location of trapped victims. Only then was drilling through slabs and inserting cameras possible.

Under the command of NSW Police Commander Chief Superintendent Bruce Johnson the rescue team was predominantly made up of the NSW Police Force, Fire Brigade, Ambulance and State Emergency Service members with their numbers augmented by their counterparts in the ACT.

The army of rescuers and support crew grew to around 400 at its peak — a rescue scenario unprecedented at the time in Australia.

Also growing in size by the minute was the media contingent and live television coverage. In a few short moments Thredbo had been thrust into world headlines.

The late night television bulletins carried the grim advice from police that the chance of finding anyone alive in the rubble was “infinitesimally small”, but rescuers would continue to work in the hope that a miracle would happen.

“
The 13-member rescue team from ACT Policing played a major role in rescue efforts, with general duties police also providing site security and general crowd control.

.....
Rescue workers continued searching into the night — 1997
.....
Sergeant Warren Williamson (in white overalls) during rescue efforts — 1997

Rescuers continued removing debris piece-by-piece as surveyors continually monitored minute-by-minute movements of the debris. Repeated sweeps with thermal imaging cameras failed to reveal any signs of life.

On Saturday 2 August, and after 55 hours, morning news bulletins erupted with the news that a voice had been heard and that a survivor had been located. Site controller, Sergeant Williamson, and NSW Fire Brigade officer Steve Hirst, had heard ski instructor Stuart Diver’s calls from beneath the rubble. Within an hour Sergeant Williamson and (then) Senior Constables Steve Neuhaus and Peter Davis, along with other rescue operators including NSW paramedic Paul Featherstone, had gained entry.

Diver was buried under three huge concrete slabs, 2.5 metres below the rubble.

Sergeant Williamson as site controller in charge of Diver’s rescue, was responsible for planning and controlling his extraction. ACT Policing’s (then) Acting Sergeant Mick Travers was responsible as site controller for the remainder of the site.

The painstaking extraction took almost 12 hours and by the time Diver was clear of the debris, he had survived almost 66 hours beneath the rubble.

The 13-member rescue team from ACT Policing played a major role in rescue efforts, with general duties police also providing site security and general crowd control.

Eighteen people, including Diver’s wife, died in the landslide.

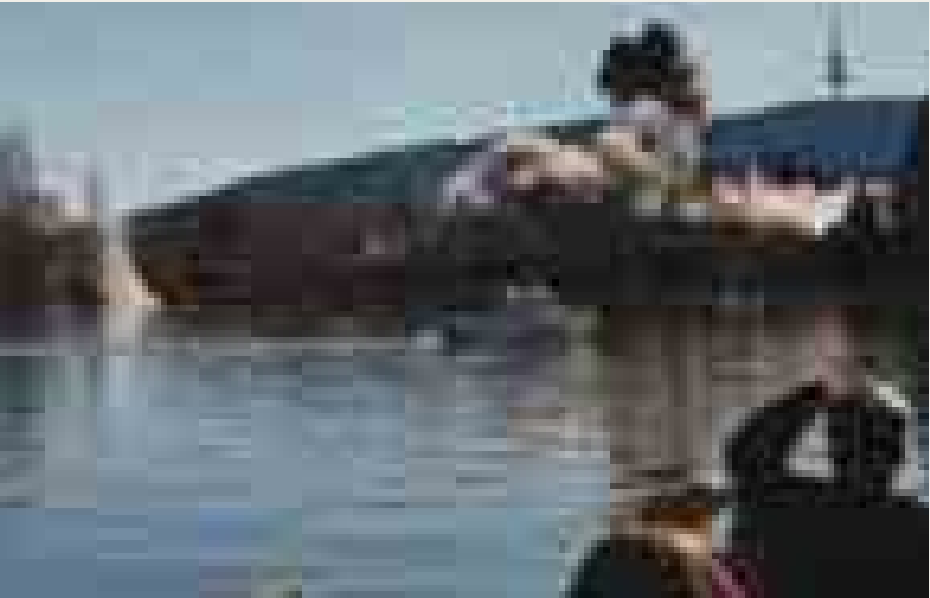
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Members of the ACT’s Search and Rescue team at Thredbo: Steve Sargent, Mark Laing, Tim Roberts, Cameron Mitter, Gavin Thomas (back), Peter Laidlaw, Rodger Braun, Kate Fitzpatrick, Ian Whyte, Val and Rob Fraser (Crackenback Lodge owners), Warren Williamson, Gavin Kearny (middle), Steve Neuhaus, Rod Anderson, Bob Weise, Mick Travers, Mark Usback, Rod Carter and Peter Davis (front)



1997

*Hospital implosion
tragedy*

July 13, 1997: 12-year-old Katie Bender lost her life when the implosion of the old Royal Canberra Hospital went tragically wrong.



Around 100 000 Canberrans gathered around Lake Burley Griffin to watch the hospital where many of them were born, ‘implode’ to make way for the National Museum of Australia.

The ACT Government staged the event as a celebration, a move forward for Canberra, and was widely published. A local radio station held a competition leading up to the event, with the winner granted the right to push the plunger that set off the blast.

ACT Policing had been working with the ACT Government in a water operations and crowd control capacity, and in respect to major event planning, but was later required to investigate the tragic incident.

The main building did not fully disintegrate however, and had to be later manually demolished. Far worse, the explosion was not contained on the site and large pieces of debris were projected towards spectators situated 500 metres away on the opposite side of the lake, in a location that nobody considered unsafe or inappropriate.

A series of systematic failures outlined in the coroner’s report were responsible, shrapnel from the explosion was thrown more than 400 metres across the lake. Katie, who had gone there with her family, was struck in the head with a 1 kilogram piece of steel, reportedly travelling at 150 kilometres/second. She died instantly.

Nine other people were injured, and large fragments of masonry and metal were found 650 metres from the demolition site.

The Royal Canberra Hospital implodes while spectators look on — 1997

A plume of water rises when masonry blown clear of the imploding Royal Canberra Hospital enters Lake Burley Griffin — 1997

1997

Bega school girl murders



On 6 October 1997, 14-year-old Lauren Margaret Barry and 16-year-old Nicole Emma Collins of Bega, NSW, were abducted by two men, raped and sexually assaulted several times, and murdered. Over a 12-hour period the girls were driven several hundred kilometres from Bega to Fiddler’s Green Creek in Victoria, where they were stabbed to death.

On 25 October 1997, ACT Policing located a car stolen by the two men in Canberra. The vehicle was searched and police discovered maps of the Bega area and items belonging to one Lindsay Beckett. Beckett was arrested two days later on car theft charges and remanded in custody. Detectives from ACT Policing interviewed Leslie Camilleri the following day. Both men denied any knowledge of the girl’s abduction and murder.

On 12 November the same year, police again interviewed Beckett, who made a full confession and agreed to take police to the crime scene at Fiddler’s Green Creek where the remains of the girls’ bodies were found.

A tiny but crucial piece of evidence was also found. The men had thrown the murder weapon off Commonwealth Avenue Bridge into Lake Burley Griffin.

“The weapon — found by police diver Mick Gordon during an underwater search — was a tiny spider knife that could fit into the palm of your hand — but we found it,” Sergeant Allen Le Lievre who was working in Water Operations at the time said.

Career criminals with violent pasts, Leslie Camilleri and Lindsay Beckett, who were both living in Yass just outside of Canberra at the time of the murders, were sentenced to life imprisonment. Beckett received a non-parole period of 35 years.

Lauren Margaret Barry and Nicole Emma Collins in 1997

1998

A letter bomb affair



Labelled as the “man who held the nation to ransom” with a letterbomb campaign, Colin Dunstan, a former employee of the Australian Taxation Office, sparked a reign of terror in the ACT, and across Australia, in late 1998.

The Canberra man’s failed extra marital affair triggered his rampage, sending packages of hate to 28 victims in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, public servants whom he believed had wronged him. The nation came to a halt for four days just before Christmas 1998 as fear spread through offices, leading to mass evacuations.

A nation-wide alert was issued after 22 bombs were discovered at the Fyshwick Mail Centre. One of the bombs, the size of a computer disc, exploded, injuring a postal worker.

Dunstan was targeting colleagues and superiors at the Australian Taxation Office where he had been sacked; 17 000 tax officers and their families were warned not to open mail in their homes or in the office.

The 43-year-old was discovered by ACT detectives in a budget motel in south Canberra. He had posted the 28 bombs on 1 December 1998 and was arrested four days later on 4 December.

Dunstan was found guilty in the ACT Supreme Court in 2000 on multiple charges of posting an explosive and attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm.

He was jailed for nine years and was released in April 2008.

After nearly 20 years, in 2012 Dunstan won a legal battle for worker’s compensation, which began in the 1990s, for depression suffered in the aftermath of his affair with his colleague.

This incident is still considered Australia’s most notorious letter bombing case.

The letter bombs posted by Dunston in 1998
Image courtesy of the AFP Museum

1998

Revolver to Glock



As the NSW Police Force and Queensland Police gradually shifted to Glocks, the decision was made in 1998 for all AFP sworn officers to follow suit and carry the modern, self-loading, reliable pistols.

The decision followed a tragic incident, when in July 1995 two young NSW Police officers attended what appeared to be a routine domestic dispute in the North Coast town of Crescent Head.

The male offender involved, John McGowan, dressed in camouflage and playing out what was described later in court as a “military games fantasy”, was armed with a rifle. Without hesitation, he killed Constable Robert Spears with a shot to the head.

After a brief exchange of gunfire with the assailant, the second officer, Constable Peter Addison, nervously attempted to reload his Smith and Wesson revolver. It was a fatal error, with Addison shot and killed by McGowan as he fumbled with his revolver’s spare ammunition. McGowan later took his own life.

Among the many recommendations which resulted from that tragic incident was that self-loading pistols and magazines be issued to police. The police-issued firearm, a use-of-force option which is rarely fired but when needed most, had to be effortless and foolproof in its operation.

Since its inception in 1979, the same type of Smith and Wesson revolver had been issued to all AFP sworn officers, and was common among police services around Australia. AFP detectives were offered the option of a five-shot, snub-nosed model which could be better concealed in a shoulder holster under a suit coat, while uniformed officers carried the longer-barrelled, six-shot version in a holster on their hip.

ACT Policing’s specialist and tactical operators were among the first officers in the AFP to trial the lighter, new generation semi-automatic Glock pistols, and by 1998, all sworn officers in the AFP began transitioning to the Glock.

As is the case with all Australian police services, AFP officers are required to annually re-qualify with the Glock at a target range so as to retain full use-of-force capability.

.....

The Glock used by AFP officers since 1998

2000

A Policing Arrangement for the ACT



On 15 March 2000 Minister for Justice and Customs Amanda Vanstone together with ACT Minister for Justice and Community Safety Gary Humphries signed a new policing arrangement for the provision of community policing services to the ACT, by the AFP.

While arrangements were made in 1989 at the first sitting of the ACT Legislative Assembly, when self-government was introduced, the new agreement supported a range of new accountability measures. It also enabled the development of an annual *Purchase Agreement* with the ACT Government specifying services to be provided to the community.

The arrangement allowed the ACT Government to have substantial input on behalf of its community to the goals and objectives of ACT Policing, the appointment of the Chief Police Officer and the determination, through the budget process, of the level of services provided.

The arrangement, known as the *Policing Arrangement*, continues to be in place to this day, with the most recent arrangement signed by AFP Commissioner Tony Negus and Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Brendan O’Connor in June 2012 for a further five years.

As the community policing arm of the AFP, ACT Policing continues to be measured against an annual *Purchase Agreement* which now stipulates around 32 key performance indicators across crime and safety management, traffic operations, crime prevention, and prosecution and judicial support.

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Former Chief Police Officer for the ACT Bill Stoll signs the *Policing Arrangement* and annual *Purchase Agreement* with then Minister for Justice and Community Safety Gary Humphries — 2000



The Mounted Police Squad is born

2000



The ACT welcomed its first ever Mounted Police Squad in October 2000, more than 70 years since horses last populated Canberra's streets.

Two ACT mounted police members — Senior Constables John Foster and Stuart Howes — and horses, Platoon and Joseph, had all received four weeks specialised training at the NSW Police Academy at Goulburn. The training, horses and saddlery were all donated by the NSW Police Force; and were repaid for their generosity by now Sergeants Foster and Howes working free-of-charge at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Initially the mounted police were used to generate high police visibility and provide a better platform for observation of criminal activity. Horses also had the ability to access rugged terrain and other areas inaccessible to police vehicles in the event of offender pursuits or searches for missing persons.

The Mounted Police Squad undertook beat patrols of Canberra's major shopping centres, car parks and bus interchanges, sweeps of suburban locations identified as problem areas, crowd control at major sporting events and demonstrations such as the protests against meetings of the World Economic Forum in May 2001.

The Mounted Police had a strong history in the ACT; initially as the only mode of transport, and later, building connections with the community and confidence in police.

Constable R L Hughes was the first ACT police officer appointed as a mounted Constable in 1927, and used his horse to get around Canberra. He was based at Duntroon and remained in Canberra until he was transferred to Norfolk Island in 1936.

The unit was closed in 2001 but a Ceremonial Mounted Cadre was later established for the opening of the National Police Memorial in 2006. In 2011 the Ceremonial Mounted Cadre was disbanded and the horses retired or returned to the NSW Police Force.

.....
Ceremonial Mounted Cadre members, Sergeant Hilary Fletcher and Protective Service Officer Kylie Woodyatt, on the streets of Civic during lunch hour — 2009
.....

Senior Constables John Foster and Stuart Howes on Platoon and Joseph — 2000



2001

The beginning of the Volunteers in Policing

In August 2001 an advertisement appeared in *The Canberra Times* seeking expressions of interest from people in the community who were interested in becoming a police volunteer.

In October 2001, Volunteering ACT undertook a series of pre-selection interviews of applicants and in November, two courses in Skills Training for Volunteers were conducted.

On 3 December 2001 a total of 40 successful interviewees attended the AFP College at Barton and began the inaugural three-day ‘police volunteers’ course. Thirty-five made it through the course, which included psychological testing, and graduated on 5 December 2001, International Volunteers Day.

This was the beginning of the hugely successful Volunteers in Policing program, initially met with resistance because ‘civilians’ would be working alongside police, and at times, undertake duties traditionally reserved for sworn members. It was a program however that then Deputy Chief Police Officer Denis McDermott and his staff officer Karen Shirley knew would be invaluable to the frontline.

There are now 46 volunteers working in ACT Policing — 23 women and 23 men — with plans to further expand the program.

The program has 28 approved active role descriptions, directly supporting ACT Policing’s capacity to meet operational and business requirements.

Volunteer Cynthia Ponting certifies a document at Tuggeranong Police Station in the early years

Volunteers cooking up a storm in support of a large-scale operation — 2011

Volunteers perform a range of duties, including front office support at police stations, role playing with recruits, fingerprinting, letterbox drops, assistance at major events, and Justice of the Peace activity. In the 2011–12 financial year alone, volunteers witnessed and certified 81 069 documents for members of the public.

During the President of the United States visit to Canberra in 2011, the volunteers provided catering for more than 1000 members over the course of the two days (they are famously known for their barbecues), and in the same year catalogued hundreds of exhibit items for investigators.

Sergeant Sharan Slater, who has been managing the program since 2002, and who herself initially questioned the value of volunteers in a policing context is now their biggest fan.

The Volunteers in Policing celebrate National Volunteers Week, and one of the original volunteers Kevin Benson’s 80th birthday — 2011

“They are a unique group of people with an unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. They keep coming back for more, and do so with a smile.

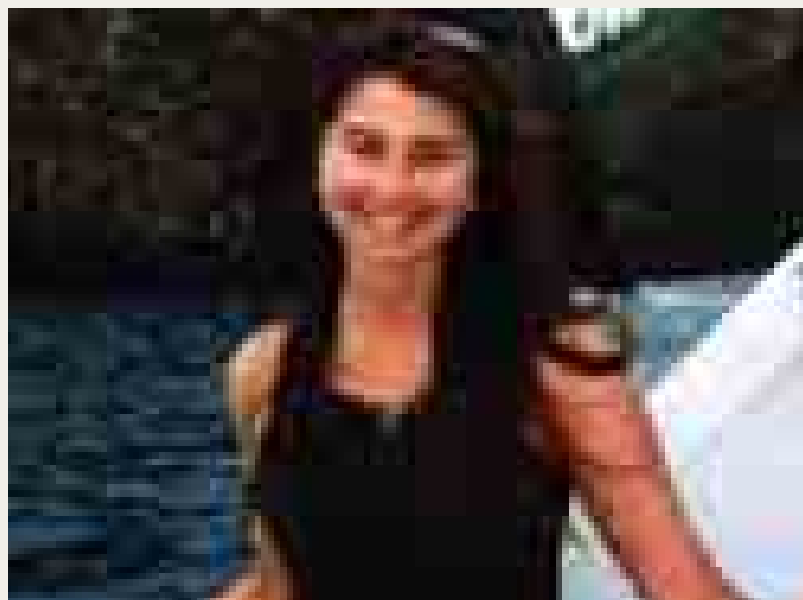
“The volunteer’s contribution to ACT Policing is consistently above and beyond the call of duty and we are extremely lucky to have them as part of our policing family,” Sergeant Slater said.

The Volunteers in Policing program celebrated 10 years in 2011 with an appropriately catered barbecue with the ACT Policing executive.

Since the program’s inception, volunteers have recorded more than 124 000 hours worked, representing approximately 1400 hours ‘on duty’ each month. The program continues to enjoy a 95 per cent retention rate.

2002

Norfolk Island murder



In 2002 Janelle Patton was the first person to be murdered on Norfolk Island in more than 150 years. She had gone for a morning walk on Easter Sunday and never returned home. Her body was found wrapped in a plastic sheet, with 64 stab wounds, at the popular tourist spot Cockpit Waterfall Reserve.

Members of ACT Policing were tasked with the lengthy investigation, led by now retired Detective Sergeant Bob Peters. Police collected 1258 sets of fingerprints in a massive voluntary fingerprinting program of residents for comparison and elimination.

Eventually investigations into Ms Patton’s murder led to the arrest of a man in February 2006.

New Zealand Police arrested Glenn McNeill near the town of Nelson on the South Island. McNeill was convicted on 9 March 2007 and sentenced to a maximum of 24 years in prison.

Janelle Patton before her brutal death in 2002

2002

Operation HALITE



Operation HALITE — a targeted approach to reduce property crime and drug-related supply offences in the ACT — was launched in October 2002 as a regional priority.

Operations CHRONICLE (in 1998 and 1999) and ANCHORAGE (in 2001) were precursors to HALITE, the latter running between February and June, and continuing the burglary reduction program put in place by Operations STRIKEBACK and HANDBRAKE.

The intelligence-led approach to investigations — led by (then) Detective Sergeant Brett McCann — aggressively targeted known recidivists through a large-scale investigative approach, involving five investigative teams, Traffic Operations, ACT Policing Intelligence, surveillance, forensics and Police Media. More than 250 people were charged; 29 people arrested on more than one occasion during the four-month period. More than 100 search warrants were executed.

The need for HALITE was driven by the need to re-focus on volume crime. The ACT was again experiencing an increase in burglaries and motor vehicle thefts, and recording offences well above the national average.

For the first two years Operation HALITE was run by the Territory Investigations Group, and driven by Detective Sergeants Bob Ball and Andrew Smith. By 2004, under the supervision of Superintendents Brian McDonald and Mick Kilfoyle, crime targeting began operating out of the stations, with the team led by (then) Sergeant Mick Calatzis.

A series of planned (and public) campaigns were conducted, leading to multiple arrests. “We knew there were persons of interest in specific areas, and we knew that could make local residents vulnerable,” Sergeant Calatzis said.

Operation HALITE’s approach proved successful both in the short term — with the arrest of recidivist property offenders — and in long-term with statistics showing a marketed decrease in property and volume crime of more than 20 per cent.

Targeting volume crime is now business-as-usual and is predominantly driven through ACT Policing’s Crime Targeting Team, and aligning to the ACT Government’s *Property Crime Reduction Strategy*.

Traffic Operations members conduct checks during Operation HALITE — 2002



Introduction of 131 444 2002

The former local police assistance line, 11444, was switched off on 31 August 2002, as the ACT moved in line with the national 131 444 standard.

Two years after the 131 444 police assistance line was introduced, the ACT Police Assistance Centre (ACTPAC) was formed, a call centre to take reports from the public on behalf of the stations. Simon Tillmanns was one of the first unsworn operators in ACT Policing Operations, joining in 2000. “When ACTPAC came into existence, operators began logging reports that did not necessarily require police attendance in accordance with our Priority Response Model, such as reports of shoplifting, theft, property damage and petrol drive-offs.”

Previously calls from the public would go directly to the stations (front office) to manage, but the coordinated ACTPAC approach alleviated the station workload, allowing more patrols and police visibility in and around Canberra.

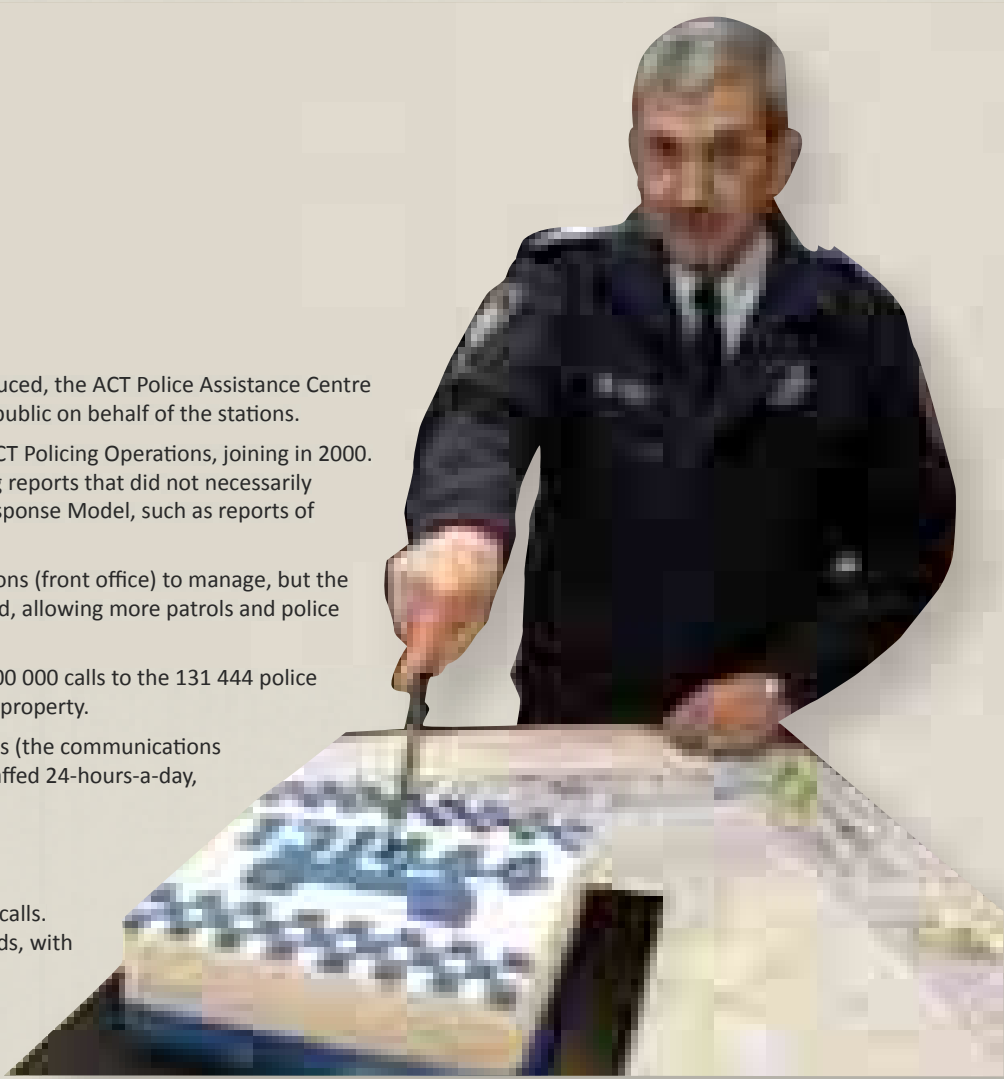
Over the past decade ACT Policing has received more than 900 000 calls to the 131 444 police assistance number, and in doing so, has saved both lives and property.

All calls are taken by operators within ACT Policing Operations (the communications dispatch centre) at the Winchester Police Centre, which is staffed 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

They also take Triple Zero (000) emergency calls and that of Crime Stoppers (ACT).

The 131 444 accounts for around 50 per cent of all incoming calls. More than 90 per cent of calls are answered within 20 seconds, with the average duration of each call around three minutes.

The 131 444 police assistance line is now nationally recognised, and a phone call to this number will switch the user through to police in the relevant State or Territory.



Members of ACT Policing Operations taking calls for police assistance — 2010

Sergeant Mike Ward of ACT Policing Operations cuts a cake to mark the 10 year anniversary of 131 444 — 2012



2003

*Protecting powerful
presidents*



October 2003 was a very busy time for ACT Policing, with visits to Canberra —within days of each other — of two of the world’s most powerful leaders: then President of the United States George W Bush, and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Security around these visits was extremely tight, with fighter aircraft in the air at all times and a massive protective motorcade managed by Traffic Operations.

Adding further complexity, the Bush visit was also a contentious one, sparking widespread protests and condemnation. The US Secret Service kept a tight lid on public appearances which frustrated journalists and the large groups of protesters keen to convey their messages. The protest groups were well-organised and highly mobile, moving in large numbers between the President’s appearance venues and stretching police response resources.

While the security management around the Bush visit was a major event for ACT Policing back then, we have since managed the visits of a number of high-profile dignitaries, including current US President Barack Obama in November 2011.

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Police monitor protestors outside Parliament House during the visit of President George W Bush in 2003
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Police and Close Personal Protection guard President George W Bush in the forecourt of Parliament House — 2003





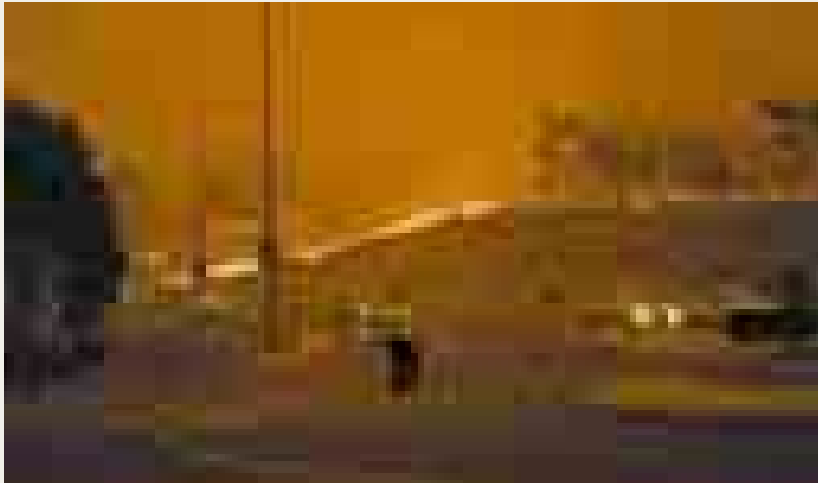
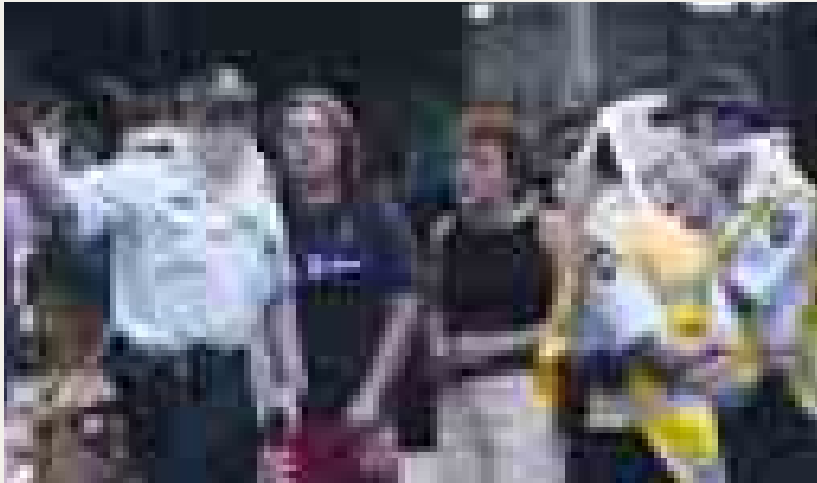
2003

Sergeant Jeff Knight of Traffic Operations watches on in disbelief as flames engulf South Canberra — 2003

Canberra's blackest day

In the tinder-dry summer of January 2003, lightning strikes in high country to the west of the ACT ignited a series of small fires in deep bushland. These ignition sources smouldered for days and were the catalyst for one of the most dramatic and destructive 36-hour periods in Canberra's history.

Fierce, dry winds drove a firestorm which swept towards the beleaguered bush capital on multiple fronts from the west, north-west and south-west. On 18 January the firestorm struck with fury, with a speed and vehemence few Canberrans will ever forget.



Officers involved in the operation on the streets of Canberra included general duties, Specialist Response and Security and traffic members. Although they all had specific roles under the emergency plan; when the situation escalated, everyone contributed where they could by responding to calls of residents trapped by the fires, enforcing roadblocks, directing traffic at intersections where traffic lights had gone out and evacuating people for their own safety.

Behind the scenes, members from ACT Policing Operations, Human Resources, Police Media, welfare officers, workplace health and safety staff and police volunteers were working around the clock to support operators in the field.

Members from the broader AFP were also mobilised to support the Canberra response, with 42 members from Eastern Region arriving in Canberra on Sunday 19 January 2003, and around 60 members from National and Southern Operations placed on stand-by for possible deployment in the days that followed. Seventy police recruits were also put on stand-by, with 30 of them starting their policing careers early when they were deployed to assist with traffic direction and roadblocks.

The NSW Police Force also provided some much needed help through 24 officers and 13 vehicles to assist with patrol duties as the emergency situation continued to hover over Canberra.

“

On 18 January the
firestorm struck with
fury, with a speed
and vehemence few
Canberrans will ever
forget.

.....
Police begin evacuations as the situation begins to escalate
— 18 January 2003
.....

Police enforce roadblocks in Duffy — 2003

Four people lost their lives and 491 dwellings were destroyed in those frantic hours in which emergency services, police, volunteers and householders battled shoulder-to-shoulder against walls of flame, to protect lives, pets and property.

The extent of the bushfire crisis brought about the first State of Emergency ever declared in the ACT. Chief Police Officer for the ACT John Murray immediately assumed the role of Territory Controller. This declaration enacted additional powers under the *Emergency Management Act 1999*, including the power for police to direct people to evacuate, and stop people from entering areas under threat from the approaching fires.

The Canberra bushfires were, at the time, the second biggest fire disaster in Australia behind Ash Wednesday in 1983.

The people and the landscape have carried the scars from this event for years, and a broad sweep of fire-protection and emergency response initiatives have been introduced as part of the lessons learned.

Approximately \$300 million in damage was done to rural properties, parks and forests.

Sergeant Therese Barnicoat led the ACT Policing component of the coronial investigation, which took almost 24 months to complete, and involved countless witness statements, lines of enquiry and viewing of evidentiary footage.

.....
Officers Jane Mackenzie, Kelly Fulton and Bruce Harris take in
the devastation the day after — 2003

2004

Murder at Miramar



In 2005 Zhang ‘Steffi’ Hong Jie, a 25-year-old Chinese national and University of Canberra student, was found dead in an apartment in Belconnen.

While Ms Zhang’s badly decomposed body was found in her Chandler Street apartment in January 2005 police estimated she was killed in June 2004. The murder was only discovered after neighbouring residents of the Miramar apartment complex reported a foul smell.

A team of ACT Policing detectives, led by Detective Sergeant Matt Innes and (then) Detective Senior Constable Matt Neesham, found that Ms Zhang had been strangled and struck in the head.

It took almost a month for the victim to be formally identified using DNA evidence gathered and matched with the victim’s family in China.

Her boyfriend Zhang Long, who had returned to China, later admitted (to his father) of killing his girlfriend by hitting her twice over the head with a hammer. He then tied a computer cable around her neck and covered her semi-naked body with two doonas before fleeing Australia. He faxed a full admission to ACT Policing and was taken into custody in China.

In late July 2005, after extensive negotiations with Chinese authorities, a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the Dalian Public Security Bureau arrived in Canberra to receive a comprehensive briefing on the murder case and formally receive the evidence tendered in the case.

In mid-December 2009 a Chinese court sentenced Zhang Long to life imprisonment and he remains incarcerated in China.

The murder was one of the more complex investigations undertaken by ACT Policing, involving for the first time, the Chinese Government, to sentence and imprison one of its citizens for a murder in the ACT.

.....
Zhang Hong Jie was killed in her Belconnen apartment in 2004

2004

Introduction of Livescan



Until 2004 most jurisdictions in Australia still relied on taking fingerprints in police watch houses, using ink and manually recording the fingerprints onto an official form. These inked impressions were then stored into the national database.

This method of recording meant that poor quality impressions were stored and comparison latent print searches may not have been identified.

The development of the Livescan technology — a paperless system where no ink is required — allowed better quality finger impressions to be recorded, and there was no requirement for clean up afterwards. The time difference between an inked set of fingerprints taken and processed compared to a Livescan set became significantly noticeable.

Livescan allowed fingerprints to be searched on the national database on a 24-hour basis, not requiring any fingerprint personnel to scan and enter the inked format. Results became available much quicker, enabling investigators to act accordingly. Police were able to identify suspects earlier, clear innocent people faster, make quicker arrests and identify repeat offenders more easily.

The Livescan system began on 4 June 2004 with the first set of fingerprints taken at the ACT Watch House at City Police Station.

.....
Livescan was introduced at the City Police Station (ACT Watch House) in 2004

2005

Death of Clea Rose



Early Saturday morning, 30 July 2005, 21-year-old University student Clea Rose was hit by a speeding vehicle being pursued by police in the Civic bus interchange.

The underage driver of the stolen car entered the bus interchange, which at the time was limited to taxis and pedestrian traffic, reaching speeds of 100 kilometres per hour. Ms Rose died three weeks later from a catastrophic brain injury. The incident saw criminal charges laid against the driver of the car and two passengers, but also saw major political and public recriminations against ACT Policing, as to whether pursuit procedure or the officers involved in the pursuit had played some role in Ms Rose’s death.

An internal police inquiry (under the nominal oversight of Commonwealth Ombudsman John McMillan) found that police had acted in accordance with procedures, but a full coronial inquest began on 7 May 2007 to examine the broader causes of the incident, a decision welcomed by her parents Ross Dunn and Frances Rose. The inquest complemented the findings of the initial police inquiry.

.....
Clea’s Rose, named in memory of Ms Rose, was launched in 2012
Image courtesy of clearose.com



The 14-year-old boy who was recklessly driving the car that hit Ms Rose was charged with manslaughter. Four new charges were laid against him when he appeared in the ACT Children’s Court on 5 September 2005. He was sentenced to three years in juvenile detention by the Supreme Court.

He was also charged with not stopping at the scene of the accident, and for stealing and driving another car two weeks prior to the hit-and-run.

The family endorsed the sentence, and offered to help with the boy’s rehabilitation. This meant that restorative justice measures that had previously only been used in more minor crimes were able to be used, something which had not been seen before in the ACT.

The family also participated in an AFP training video about pursuits and the long term effects on people, including police, of the decisions they make.

A 15-year-old Downer boy and a 13-year-old McKellar boy pleaded guilty to riding in the stolen car that hit Ms Rose.

The three boys had been smoking cannabis before stealing the car and driving into the city. They attracted the attention of police in the vicinity of London Circuit, which resulted in a pursuit after failing to stop at police direction.

As a result of the tragic incident, the AFP reviewed its urgent duty driving and pursuit guidelines, and remains the only police service to release its guidelines publicly (online at police.act.gov.au).

.....
The Civic bus interchange where Ms Rose was hit by a speeding vehicle in 2005

2005

Operation
BARDY



In 2005 ACT Policing together with Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers brought to a conclusion a two-week long, transnational drug operation which netted 3 kilograms of opium and a quantity of heroin.

The operation covered three jurisdictions and involved ACT Policing’s Territory Investigations Group (now Criminal Investigations), surveillance, drug intelligence, Specialist Response and Security, forensics and AFP federal agents from Sydney and Melbourne. It was the first time that the ACT had executed a controlled operation. An additional 2 kilograms of opium was discovered following the execution of a search warrant in Sydney, leading to two arrests.

.....
A selection of items siezed as part of Operation BARDY
— 2005

2005

Operation KARRI



In 2005 a series of sexual assaults in Macquarie, Cook and O’Connor shocked Canberra, and subsequently involved a large-scale operation widely reported in the media.

The offences were all committed in the early hours of the morning with the offender entering residences and using a knife to threaten and subjugate victims. Seven incidents occurred, with young women targeted on each occasion. Five incidents were sexual assaults. The offender was brazen in his approach, breaking into private homes without regard for the presence of other occupants.

Police conducted a number of covert and surveillance operations in an effort to identify the offender.

The case was finally solved through some old-fashioned detective work: painstaking piecing together of descriptions, witness accounts, and DNA and forensic material.

On Friday 10 March a team of detectives led by the senior investigating officer, Detective Sergeant Craig Marriott, executed a search warrant on the Macquarie residence of Shaun Michael Burke, and previous premises that had been linked to Burke. Property linked to the assaults was located at his residence, as was property at other locations.

In a taped record of interview, Burke claimed he had experienced a series of ‘blackouts’ around the times of the offences. Biological DNA evidence obtained from the offender was matched to that obtained from the crime scene in Macquarie, and that of one of the victims.

On 11 March 2006, Burke was charged with multiple offences including two counts of sexual assault in the third degree, six counts of sexual intercourse without consent, burglary, theft and aggravated burglary. The evidence against him was compelling. There were 36 charges in total.

Burke was found guilty, to serve 37 years imprisonment. His earliest release is in 2031.

.....
A cable found outside Burke’s residence was linked to the assaults — 2005



2005

Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan was the first female Chief Police Officer for the ACT — 2005

*The ACT's
first female
Chief Police Officer*

In an auspicious selection by the AFP which was wholeheartedly endorsed by the ACT Government, in July 2005 Canberra gained its first female Chief Police Officer, Audrey Fagan.

Dedicated, devoted and inspirational are three words often used to describe Dublin-born Assistant Commissioner Fagan, who first joined the AFP in 1981 at the age of 18.

She began her policing career in protective services and in ACT community policing, and had also served in the national and international arenas.



In the mid-1990s she accepted an advisory position as a law enforcement liaison officer to the Federal Government, and in 1998, Assistant Commissioner Fagan returned to the AFP to the position of Executive Staff Officer to former AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty.

Her ongoing commitment to improving her qualifications and experience at senior professional levels led to her rise in the ranks.

A science graduate with diplomas in applied management and executive leadership, Assistant Commissioner Fagan had received several awards and commendations throughout her career, including the Australian Police Medal in 2004 and the Australian Institute of Police Management Scholarship Award in 2001.

Ms Fagan embraced her role as Chief Police Officer for the ACT with great enthusiasm, and ardently supported the empowerment and promotion of women in the workplace. A driven and inspirational role model for women, her comments at a March 2007 International Women’s Day breakfast was a reminder of that passion.

“When I first arrived in the AFP, within ACT Policing women made up less than 10 per cent of the police force. Now I’m pleased to see that, 26 years later, women comprise 30 per cent of its membership,” Ms Fagan said. “There are a wide range of roles women can undertake and, essentially, there is no role in policing a woman can’t do.”

Tragically, in April 2007, Ms Fagan died.

“

During her 26-year career with the AFP, Audrey made an indelible mark on our organisation, not only in an operational sense but as a leader and a fine role model to women, not just within the AFP but the broader community.

.....

Assistant Commissioner Fagan relished her role as Chief Police Officer for the ACT, and was a favourite among the troops and a broader community — 2006

.....

Assistant Commissioner Fagan (middle row, far right) in the early years

Her funeral, with full police honours, was held at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka where more than 1 300 people gathered to pay their respects to “a dear friend and one of the AFP’s finest officers.”

“In every sense of the word, Audrey was a high achiever and an accomplished police officer,” Commissioner Keelty said in his valedictory.

“Her caring and professional approach to her duties was evident from the time she joined the AFP as a teenager”.

“During her 26-year career with the AFP, Audrey made an indelible mark on our organisation, not only in an operational sense but as a leader and a fine role model to women, not just within the AFP but the broader community.”

In 2008, in recognition of her contribution, as a leader and academically, Chief Minister for the ACT Katy Gallagher (former ACT Minister for Women) launched three scholarships in Ms Fagan’s memory: the Audrey Fagan Churchill Fellowship of \$30 000 (for women pursuing an overseas investigative project in the areas related to law enforcement, care and protection or professional support services for women who are victims of violence); the Audrey Fagan Post Graduate Scholarship of \$20 000 to encourage women to further their studies; and the Audrey Fagan Young Women’s Enrichment Grant of up to \$2000 to help young women to achieve their potential.

.....

AFP members form a guard of honour along the roadway as Assistant Commissioner Fagan’s casket leaves St Christopher’s Cathedral, Manuka — 2007

.....

Assistant Commissioner Fagan with Constable Kip Koala, the mascot for the Chequered Ribbon Association (AFP Legacy) — 2006

2007

The Watch House review



The 2007 review of the ACT Watch House and its operations was a controversial period in ACT Policing’s history, and came about after several complaints were made by people who had been held in police custody.

At the time of the review ACT Policing was under scrutiny, facing allegations relating to the treatment of detainees in Canberra police cells, including the treatment of intoxicated detainees, minors and those with a disability, failure to provide timely medical treatment, excessive use of force, and theft of property.

The review found that while the Watch House facilities were in good condition and largely compliant with the 1991 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, a number of deficiencies were detected, many of which were long standing, and may have reflected an attitude that custodial duties were not central to police operations.

Deficiencies identified included incomplete and out of date guidelines for management of people in custody; lack of formal training for staff appointed to the Watch House; limited staff understanding of the duty of care owed to detainees who may be at risk or have special needs; inadequate staffing to meet duty of care requirements; poor staff supervision and management, including evidence of poor staff morale and inconsistencies in practices between teams; inadequate advice to detainees about their rights and obligations when in custody, including the right to complain about their treatment; and a limited understanding of the value of complaints to the organisation or how complaint data could be used to improve organisational outcomes.

Despite these concerns, the review team was impressed by the personal commitment to providing high standards of detainee care shown by many of the staff who had worked at the Watch House.

.....

An officer monitors persons in custody at the ACT Watch House CCTV station — 2007



“They are performing an often challenging and unpopular job in difficult circumstances ... This commitment has contributed to the fact that no deaths in custody have been recorded during the history of the Watch House,” the review said.

Seventeen recommendations were handed down by the review team, with a further set of sub-recommendations, including wide structural reform, particularly in respect to the coordination of a comprehensive, consistent and up to date governance framework for persons in custody in the Watch House; internal portfolio reform and allocation and reporting arrangements regarding specific performance measures across its operations; and a redefined operational philosophy focused heavily on the welfare of staff and detainees.

Two police officers faced criminal charges for assault over separate incidents involving inappropriate use of capsicum spray, and Closed Circuit Television Cameras within the ACT Watch House were upgraded as a result.

The final report, titled *Review of ACT Policing’s Watch House Operations* was released publicly in June 2007.

The review was undertaken by now Assistant Commissioner Rudi Lammers (AFP) and Ms Katherine Campbell of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

.....

An officer delivering meals within the ACT Watch House — 2007



2008

Police manage crowds on the lawns of Parliament House
— 2008

Canberra welcomes sister city's torch

As the nation's capital and sister city of Beijing, Canberra was invited to host the Australian leg of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay, joining an esteemed list of cities including London, Paris and San Francisco.

Accepting this invitation came with the responsibility of providing law enforcement and traffic management support for the event, including assistance in the development of the relay route; the development of a traffic management plan ensuring the safe and uninhibited passage of the relay convoy, and the provision of law enforcement and other personnel for crowd control along the route and at celebration sites.



ACT Policing’s Specialist Response and Security and the Major Event Planning team were tasked with the law enforcement planning and preparation for the event, with the initial police resources allocated to secure the relay totalling only 70.

As the Olympic Flame commenced its Journey of Harmony along the 137 000 kilometre route, it became apparent that the ongoing human rights issues surrounding China’s perceived rule of Tibet were making the flame a target for protestors.

As a result of intelligence obtained by police, events overseas and tactical information gleaned from other police services, the planning and resourcing for the Canberra leg of the event ramped-up significantly in the two months prior to the relay.

The last few days leading up to the event were ‘all hands on deck’ as the operational plans were finalised and disseminated, a full convoy dress rehearsal was conducted at the AFP Majura complex and appropriate training was conducted for relevant participating members.

On the day, the 16 kilometre Torch Relay proceeded relatively unimpeded, with the planning and preparation enabling runners to travel unencumbered by the close security that had marked earlier legs of the torch relay.

“

It’s quite obvious today that there is one police force in the world that understands how to run a major event, and that’s the ACT police force.

.....
A protestor is taken into custody by police at
Parliament House — 2008
.....

Athletes prepare to take the Olympic Flame across
Lake Burley Griffin as Water Operations watch on — 2008

Special legislation invoked under the *Major Event Security Act 2004* for only the third time in the ACT ensured police had appropriate powers to maintain safety within the crowds, with only seven people arrested throughout the day. The efforts of police ensured there were very few problems among the estimated 40 000 people who lined Canberra’s streets along the relay route, allowing both pro-Chinese and pro-Tibetan supporters their right to demonstrate peacefully, in close proximity to each other.

In the end, a total of 518 AFP members were deployed to police the event, not including a number of other areas who carried out roles on the day as part of their core business activities.

It is estimated that 4176 policing hours were attributed to preparing for the relay, with members of the planning teams dedicating approximately 1800 staffing hours and attending an estimated 50 meetings over twelve months to ensure the safe passage of the torch.

Following the event, (then) Chief Minister for the ACT Jon Stanhope expressed his view of how the AFP managed the event: “... it’s quite obvious today that there is one police force in the world that understands how to run a major event, and that’s the ACT police force.”

The Canberra leg of the Torch Relay will remain one of the largest events ever hosted by the ACT, and one hosted under an intense international spotlight.

.....
The 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch

2009

Gungahlin Police
Station goes 24/7



One of Canberra’s newest police stations — Gungahlin Police Station — began operating 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week in January 2009 in response to the area’s considerable population growth.

Twenty-four additional police and an extra two dedicated patrol cars were announced by Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell to provide Gungahlin residents with a permanent, full-time police station.

The Gungahlin Police Station, which first opened in 1998, was previously operating from 7am to 11pm, seven-days-a-week. The population of Gungahlin had doubled from 16 000 to 32 000 residents in this time.

Prior to the station operating 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, Belconnen patrol members and City Police Station responded to requests for police assistance after hours in the Gungahlin area.

Chief Police Officer for the ACT at the time Michael Phelan said that by providing an increased police presence, Gungahlin residents would see better response times to high priority incidents and a dedicated police presence focussed full-time on their local neighbourhoods.

“The addition of 19 constables and five sergeants to the Gungahlin beat shows the importance ACT Policing places on tailoring our crime-fighting capabilities in accordance with community trends,” Deputy Commissioner Phelan said.

Gungahlin Police Station continues to operate as a shared facility with the ACT Emergency Services Agency.

Station Sergeant Chris Meagher with former Chief Police Officer for the ACT Michael Phelan outside the Gungahlin Police Station — 2009

The front of Gungahlin Police Station as it remains today — 2013



2009

Operation UNITE



Operation UNITE — a united stand and weekend of action by all Australian States and Territories against alcohol misuse, violence and anti-social behaviour — was launched in December 2009 in response to a growing problem Australia-wide and in New Zealand.

ACT Policing joined Australian and New Zealand police services to raise awareness of alcohol-related issues, responsible drinking, responsible service of alcohol and to commit to act collectively to tackle alcohol-related crime.

In the lead up to Operation UNITE, then Deputy Chief Police Officer Bruce Hill said that alcohol misuse and related violence was one of the more serious social challenges facing police, and the community: “Operation UNITE is about cracking down on alcohol misuse and making people feel safe. It’s about challenging the culture of drinking to excess, and taking responsibility for actions to achieve change.”

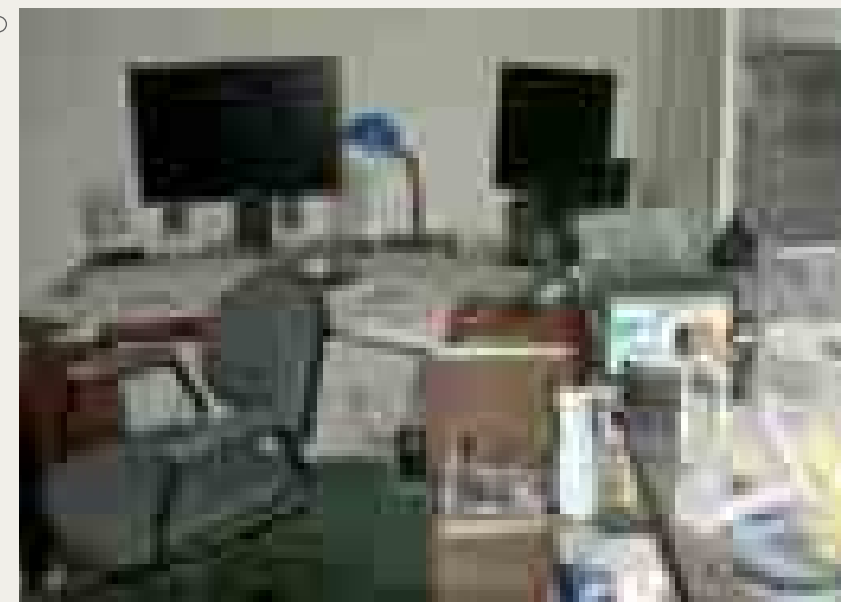
The inaugural Operation UNITE resulted in 45 arrests in the ACT and thousands nationally.

A highly visible police presence of more than 100 officers including general duties, tactical response, canine, mounted police and traffic operations hit the streets for the operation.

.....
Police on the beat make an arrest as part of Operation UNITE
— 2009

2010

Largest seizure of child exploitation materials



In January 2010 a 52-year-old man from Amaroo was arrested for having one of the largest collections of child exploitation images ACT Policing had come across.

A tip off from the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations) had led to a search warrant on the man’s house, where he was arrested by detectives while in the process of downloading images.

A number of computers and hard drives were seized, as well as computer-related equipment, containing approximately half a million images.

More than 800 hard-copy child exploitation images were also seized.

The man was charged with several offences including the possession of child abuse images and using a carriage service to obtain child abuse images.

In total approximately 1 million images were found, which detectives Paul Stewart and Daniel Williams had to individually view and classify.

It remains the largest seizure of explicit materials in the ACT, a crime that has evolved with the advent of technology.

.....
More than 5Tb of explicit images were seized by police in
2010

2010

Entering a new digital era



ACT Policing's first ever stand-alone website — police.act.gov.au — was launched in April 2010 as part of the AFP's website redevelopment and a commitment to provide quality policing services to the ACT.

The new website was designed to help keep the Canberra community better informed of policing activities in the ACT and for the first time, included news updates (through Really Simple Syndication technology), a 'traffic ticker' (which was later replaced by social media), advanced search facilities, a media centre, and information relating to traffic and road safety, crime prevention and general community safety.

The ability to report crime online, as well as to report a collision online, were also new features of the site.

During its first three months the website received more than 200 000 page views, the most popular sections being the media centre, firearms registry and work for us.

The website was ACT Policing's first step into the digital era.



In August 2010 two social media platforms, via Twitter, were launched. The first was ACTPol_Traffic, informing Canberrans of real-time collisions, road closures and traffic delays. The Twitter account proved popular, and along with general information about traffic law enforcement and road safety, the account was used to provide progress updates for convoys and motorcades, including the Convoy of No Confidence the same year.

The second was that of the Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaadvlieg — the first 'top cop' to use Twitter in Australia — used to distribute corporate information with a personal touch to provide a degree of authenticity.

In February 2012, after public consultation, ACT Policing launched its mobile friendly CrimeStatistics, interactive online crime maps, providing the community with unfiltered information about actual crime in their suburb.



Key features of CrimeStatistics included an increase in the crime types reported (including the categories of homicide and traffic offences), the ability to search and view statistics by suburb and postcode as well as crime type, and the ability to view trends over time.

For the first time the user-friendly maps provided a community engagement platform to improve on our perceptions and fears of crime key performance indicators, and information once considered operationally sensitive.

Online interactive crime maps were introduced in 2012 providing suburb-by-suburb statistics across several crime types



ACT Policing's first website — police.act.gov.au — was launched in April 2010



2010

The three original purple RAPID cars launched in August 2010

a RAPID expansion

The established link between high-risk driving behaviour and a disregard for obeying the conventions of licensing and registration was a catalyst for creating one of the ACT's most effective traffic enforcement teams in 2010.

Using the AFP's co-developed technology RAPID (Recognition and Analysis of Plates IDentified), a new team was launched in August 2010 in which three high-profile, purple Traffic Operations vehicles — two sedans and a utility — fitted with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, were revealed.



In late 2003 ACT Policing was the first police jurisdiction in Australia to deploy ANPR technology, and had later trialled RAPID in 2009 to detect unregistered and unlicensed drivers by scanning the number plates of Canberra motorists. It had found that approximately one-third of fatal collisions in the ACT involved unregistered/uninsured or unlicensed drivers, posing a significant risk on ACT roads.

The successful trial of RAPID had resulted in 1820 infringements issued and 200 licence suspensions or disqualifications. Recognising that a specialist RAPID team would be a revenue-neutral, safety-enhancing outcome, the ACT Government injected \$4.1 million over four years to build on the capability of the RAPID team.

Within 18 months of its launch, the ACT recorded six road fatalities in 2011 — the lowest ACT road toll in 52 years. Between March 2011 and April 2012, there were no road fatalities recorded in the ACT, an unprecedented 13 months without a road death.

.....
The Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology on a RAPID car — 2010
.....

Inside RAPID, using in-car computing to detect unlicensed and unregistered motorists — 2010

“
Within 18 months of [RAPID’s] launch, the ACT recorded six road fatalities in 2011 — the lowest ACT road toll in 52 years. Between March 2011 and April 2012, there was no road fatalities recorded in the ACT, an unprecedented 13 months without a road death.

In 2012 the RAPID capability was introduced to several more police cars across the ACT Policing fleet, and the technology continues to play a major role in reducing the number of deaths on ACT roads.

Former Traffic Operations Superintendent Mark Colbran, who was the driving force behind the development of the RAPID capability in its initial 12–24 months had said: “While primarily a road safety tool, RAPID has also contributed to general crime reduction in the ACT with a number of stolen motor vehicles recovered as part of RAPID operations over the past 12 months. It has also identified people with outstanding warrants for arrest.”

The vehicles (two Falcon XR sedans and an XR utility) featuring a striking purple livery with traffic operations identifiers, created significant interest around Canberra as a result of their high-profile operational deployment.

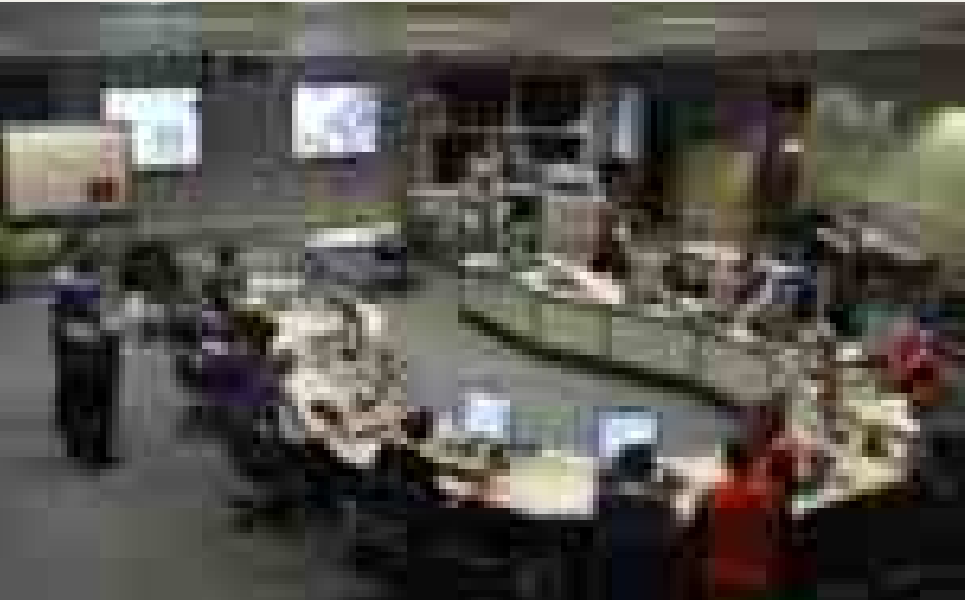
In 2012 the RAPID capability was introduced to several more police cars across the ACT Policing fleet, and continues to play a major role in reducing the number of deaths on ACT roads.

Since its introduction, RAPID has scanned thousands of number plates, and has detected more than 3000 unregistered/suspended vehicles, more than 1200 uninsured vehicles, and more than 700 unlicensed drivers.

.....
Superintendent Mark Colbran of Traffic Operations at the time demonstrates the RAPID capability — 2011

2010

Mercury 10



The deployment phase of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee’s multi-jurisdictional exercise — Mercury 10 — took place over two days in August 2010 as part of Australia’s largest counter-terrorism training exercise.

Over the course of a 48-hour period, ACT Policing responded to several simulated attacks, including a staged bombing of an electrical substation, and a hypothetical complex hostage negotiation at a building designated as New Zealand’s High Commission. As a result, the Police Operations Centre, the Territory Crisis Centre and the Public Information Coordination Centre were stood up to provide an operational response and a coordinated whole-of-government approach to information flow (to the media and the ACT community).

ACT Policing worked closely with both ACT and Commonwealth Government agencies including the Australia Defence Force to resolve the staged ‘terrorist attacks’.

The purpose of Mercury 10 was to provide government agencies and emergency services with an opportunity to put their counter-terrorism response training into practice and review existing processes and responses to such incidents.

It also allowed reinforced the need to maintain cooperative working relationships that are enjoyed with other State, Territory and national law enforcement partners, and the media.

More than 300 members of ACT Policing took part in Mercury 10, which remains the largest multi-jurisdictional exercise undertaken.

More than 300 members of ACT Policing respond to Mercury 10 in the Police Operations Centre — 2010

2010

Opening of the Exhibit Management Centre



The purpose-built Exhibit Management Centre — situated in Vicars Street, Mitchell — was officially opened for business in November 2010.

The previous exhibit management facility — the Belconnen Property Office — was typical of the era in which it was built and became increasingly overcrowded, and unable to sustain the exhibit requirements of a modern police service.

The contemporary new facility is more than 3500 square metres in size and contains more than 3000 square metres of storage room; space required to accommodate the thousands of items held for criminal investigations, along with lost and stolen property.

The new centre also included the additional capacity to hold more than 90 vehicles on hoists, 342 medium storage containers and approximately 570 pallets.

Some of the exhibits housed in the new facility date back to 1966, including items relating to the murder of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester, the carpet which was used in the unsolved murder of Allen Redston and a 2 metre sword found on an ACTION bus.

The Exhibit Management Centre also provided office space and amenities for ACT Firearms Registry staff to check and issue firearm licences; the ACT Drug Registry which secures and transfers the analysis of all drugs seized by police; and the exhibit registrars, who secure, lodge and store all exhibits coming into police possession.

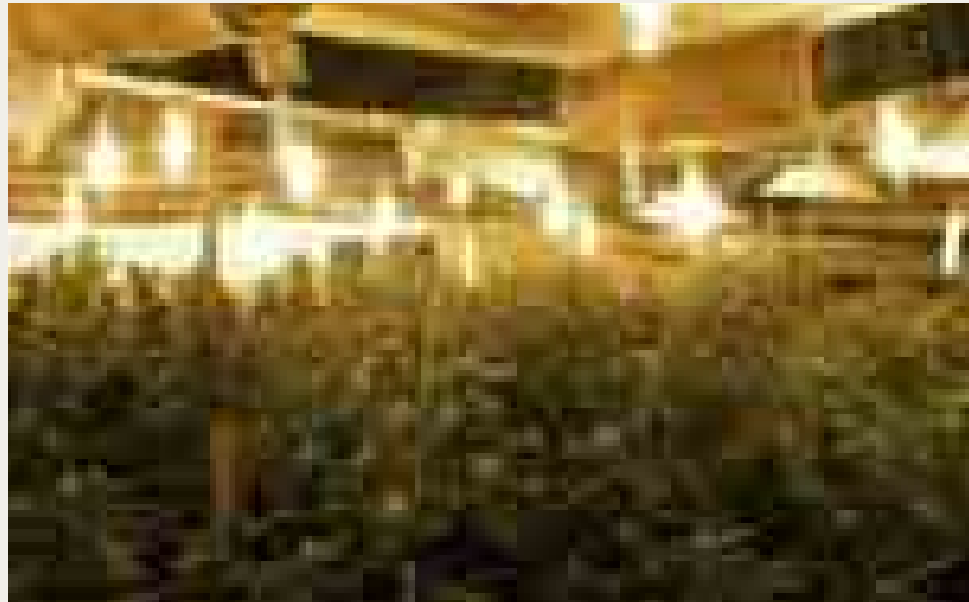
Planning for the facility began in 2007 to cater for existing and future needs of ACT Policing.

It took 25 days to move the 600 000-plus items from the previous facility, the majority of which took place at night to maintain visitor continuity through the day at the ACT Firearms Registry.

The Exhibit Management Centre opened in November 2010 to house more than 600 000 exhibit items, along with lost and stolen property and the ACT Firearms and Drugs Registry

2010

'Grow house' haul



In November 2010 criminal investigators seized 259 cannabis plants, including 104 mature plants, from a home in Melba.

An extensive and sophisticated hydroponics set-up with an automatic watering and ducting system was found inside the house. Most of the plants were located within the triple garage. Some of the plants were as high as 1.5 metres and were ready to be harvested.

The electrical system of the house had been highly modified, with the meter box bypassed and about 80 transformers installed to power the growing lamps and fans inside the premises.

A large team of police were called in to remove the plants overnight and progressively transport the plants and equipment to safe storage.

The plants had a potential street value of \$5 million. The haul remains the largest seizure of cannabis from indoor cultivation in the ACT.

Inside the Melba premises garage where cannabis plants were being cultivated — 2010

2010

Liquor reforms



The 10-person Alcohol Crime Targeting Team came into effect on 1 December 2010 to coincide with the introduction of the *Liquor Act 2010 (ACT)*, with the aim to enforce the new legislation, and reduce alcohol-related crime through education and engagement.

The new legislation was the first major reform to the *Liquor Act 1975* for almost 35 years and introduced laws making it an offence to supply alcohol to an intoxicated person and offering alcohol promotions which encourage rapid consumption. Other offences introduced included refusing to leave a licensed premises after being asked to leave, buying drinks for an intoxicated person, and abusing or threatening bar staff for refusing service of alcohol.

The reforms were an effort by the ACT Government and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell to improve public safety by tackling anti-social and violent behaviour associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

An amount of \$6.4 million over four years was allocated to establish the Alcohol Crime Targeting Team, the investment to be recovered by a new risk-based fee structure for licensed premises.

The move saw a shift of regulatory responsibility from the Office of Regulatory Services to ACT Policing.

New police powers included the power to impose an emergency 24-hour suspension of trade on the spot and the provision for lockouts at licensed premises.

Police were now able to issue criminal infringement notices, or on-the-spot fines, of up to \$1100 for a licensee, \$220 for an employee and \$120 for a member of the public who supplies liquor to another person who is intoxicated in licensed premises.

Superintendent Mick Calatzis with members of the Alcohol Crime Targeting Team patrolling licensed premises — 2010

2011

Random Roadside Drug Testing



Random Roadside Drug Testing in the ACT began in May 2011 following debate in the Legislative Assembly and after much community consultation and comment.

As of 13 December 2010 amendments to the *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977* enabled, for the first time, the detection of those who drive a vehicle after consuming either alcohol or drugs.

The ACT Government provided \$2 926 000 over four years in the 2011–12 Budget to establish the capability, and test for drivers with the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine (speed and ice) and/or MDMA (ecstasy) in their system. The funding, along with the actual purchasing of drug testing kits, was used to establish the initial team of dedicated police officers and associated governance and operational requirements.

Sergeant Ron Melis of Traffic Operations led the implementation of Random Roadside Drug Testing in the ACT using an oral test — a saliva swab — as the method to detect drug-affected drivers.

The change in legislation meant that a first offence could lead to a fine of up to \$1100. For those drivers who repeatedly offend a fine of up to \$2750, three months imprisonment, or both could be imposed. An offending driver could also face a loss of their driver's licence for a period specified by the court.

In its first 12 months of operation, more than 700 motorists were tested for drug driving. Ten people had returned a positive roadside screening, including a 16-year-old boy. More than 2000 motorists will be tested annually until the capability matures into a regular roadside operation (like random breath testing).

Sergeant Ron Melis of Traffic Operations undertakes the first random roadside drug test in the ACT — 2011

2011

Counter-terrorism capability boosted



In 2011 ACT Policing's Specialist Response and Security (SRS) enhanced its bomb response and counter-terrorism capability through the receipt of two key pieces of equipment — two bomb response trucks and the armoured rescue vehicle (the Bearcat).

ACT Policing introduced its new specialist bomb response trucks in February 2011 to enhance the ACT's capability to respond to serious explosive-related threats.

The state-of-the-art trucks included custom-made improvised explosive device defeat (IEDD) pods which were the first of its kind in Australia, and were equipped with catalytic converters to ensure environmentally friendly operation. The trucks would enable the quick deployment of the SRS Bomb Response Team if when the need arose, carrying all the equipment required — including robotic vehicles — to attend explosive incidents and situations involving chemical, biological and radiological hazards.

SRS also took possession of the Bearcat in May 2011 — a United States-built vehicle designed to help police deal with dangerous situations such as hostage incidents, or the unlikely event of a terrorist situation, where officers, and the public, required protection from gunfire and explosives.

The Bearcat — purchased by the Commonwealth Attorney- General's National Counter Terrorism Committee to build on the operational capacity of SRS Tactical Response — was one of three in Australia at the time and cost approximately \$400 000. Weighing nine tonnes, the 10-man tactical vehicle is regarded as one of the world's most effective armoured vehicles and boasts .50 Calibre armour protection, 360 degree cameras, and bullet resistant casing and tyres.

ACT Policing took receipt of the armoured rescue vehicle — the Bearcat — in 2011



2011

World-first approach to mental health

ACT Policing launched a world-first trial of embedding mental health clinicians into ACT Policing Operations (communications dispatch centre) in June 2011 to directly support frontline members, and provide better outcomes to affected individuals and the community.

The launch — part of the broader Mental Health Community Policing Initiative — followed an extensive review into how police recognise, relate and respond to people with a mental illness when they come to police attention. The review identified the NSW Police Force's Mental Health Intervention Team model as best practice, and recommended the establishment of a team within ACT Policing to implement a number of reforms, including the world-first trial, a tailored training package for frontline responders and the placement of a Mental Health ACT worker (psychologist) within ACT Policing to work alongside the Mental Health Community Policing Initiative team.

The development and implementation of the initiative and its associated elements was a significant step forward for ACT Policing together with ACT Health.

More than 300 members of ACT Policing, and the broader AFP, have now undertaken the four-day specialist training to recognise how to best respond to people in the community with a mental illness. In the first 18 months of operation, the clinicians had been called upon by police in the field more than 1500 times. Emergency actions (where mental health patients are transported by police to hospital for assessment) had halved.

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Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaadvlieg and ACT Health Director General Karen Brasher sign an agreement allowing clinicians to work in ACT Policing Operations — 2011
.....

Mental Health (ACT) clinicians within ACT Policing Operations — 2011

Mental Health (ACT) clinicians are now working alongside ACT Policing Operations seven-days-a-week. Initially, clinicians were only available during 'peak' periods from Thursday to Sunday. Two separate reviews were the catalyst for the expansion of the trial. The first, an internal 12-month review of the Mental Health Community Policing Initiative which recommended an increase in days worked by clinicians, and the second, the Doherty coronial inquest. Nathan Doherty, who had suffered from a mental illness for much of his life, was shot dead in self-defence by police in February 2011.

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Former Deputy Chief Police Officer Bruce Hill, Director Corporate Services Judith Kendrick, Deputy Chief Police Officer David McLean and ACT Health clinicians at ACT Policing Operations with Sergeant Greg Booth (far right) who was instrumental in driving the initiative — 2011

Police have come to value the real-time specialist support that only the clinicians can provide. By having access to the ACT Health database, clinicians can evaluate a patient's history and can provide advice about how to best approach a crisis situation, meaning police are better informed about individual circumstances.

Superintendent Lesa Gale, a driving force behind the Mental Health Community Policing Initiative, had said the program was designed to support frontline police who were increasingly the first responders to incidents involving people with a mental illness: "a better understanding of the circumstances we are dealing with can only provide better outcomes for the community, and those experiencing a mental illness."

2011

Colossal property haul



In July 2011 ACT Policing began the lengthy process of cataloguing what was suspected to be one of the largest seizures of stolen property ever in the ACT.

The property was found after police conducted a search warrant on a house in Lyons. Members of Criminal Investigations found every room in the house filled with property. In some cases, rooms were filled from floor to ceiling with stolen goods.

Sergeant John Giles had said that in all his experience as a police officer he had never been involved in a search warrant in which so much property was located.

“The amount of property involved makes the mind boggle; and I envisage that we will be cataloguing property for many days to come,” Sergeant Gills said.

More than 400 items were seized, with a total value around \$800 000. Items included books, CDs, DVDs, clothing, stationery, computer hard drives and software. The items had been shoplifted from stores around Canberra over a period of several years.

A 49-year-old woman was subsequently arrested.

Stolen goods were found in every room when police conducted a search warrant in 2011



2011

Introduction of Tasers in the ACT

ACT Policing announced the introduction of 15 conducted energy weapons, or Tasers, to ACT Policing’s most experienced frontline officers in August 2011 following a review of its use-of-force options.

Tasers were issued to trained substantive sergeants only, effectively providing three units for each police station in the ACT at the time.

Tasers were introduced to the ACT for specialist-trained tactical officers in 2004. The recommendation to issue Tasers to senior general duties police followed a four-month review, with ACT Policing becoming the sixth Australian State or Territory police service to equip its frontline officers with Tasers.

The roll-out of Tasers in the ACT followed intense controversy as a result of experiences, including deaths, in other States and Territories. But Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaadvlieg was confident in the measured roll-out to more experienced members, and emphasised that Tasers were a legitimate use-of-force option for police to de-escalate violent situations.

“There are clear operational benefits of introducing Tasers which include a high deterrence factor against violence, immediate incapacitation in threatening situations, the ability to deploy a Taser at a safe distance and the safety of our officers as well as the public,” Assistant Commissioner Quaadvlieg said.

The introduction of Tasers was an indication of the change in environment in which police were operating. Police were dealing with a greater degree of violence, and offenders affected by drugs such as crystal methamphetamine (ICE).

Tasers are now personally issued to sergeants, and are now equipped with camera technology to capture colour vision and audio when activated.

The X26 Taser was introduced to frontline sergeants in 2011



2011

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II waves to fans at St Johns Church in Reid — 2011

*An officer, a Queen
and a gentlemen*

October and November 2011 were busy months for ACT Policing, playing a significant role in the security arrangements and providing escorts for a number of high profile visits including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, the President of the United States Barack Obama, and Prince Frederick and Princess Mary of Denmark.

In October a gracious monarch touched the hearts of Canberrans when Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spent seven days in the ACT as part of the monarch's 16th visit to Australia.

Touching down at RAAF Fairbairn in a chartered British Airways Boeing 777 jet on Wednesday 19 October, the royal couple were met by hundreds of adoring fans, and began their 'to see and to be seen' tour.



Providing security for the royal visitors with discretion and sensitivity, ACT Policing ensured Her Majesty’s every move was carefully monitored and her safety assured at all times.

In stark contrast, a month later the ACT welcomed, with open arms, one of the most powerful world leaders, President of the United States (POTUS) Barack Obama.

For ACT Policing, his 22-hour stay in Canberra was intense, with tight security arrangements in place to protect POTUS.

The previous President of the United States to visit Canberra was George W. Bush in 2003, and while protest activity marked the visit, Operational Commander Michael Chew likened the security arrangements of Obama to that of his predecessor.

“The entire security package for Obama was a stark contrast to that of the Queen, and as expected, more like that of Bush’s visit in 2003,” (then) Superintendent Chew said.

For Obama, there was a visible tactical response capability, with Specialist Response and Security members also part of the motorcade along with Obama’s personal security team, custom-built Cadillac and SUVs.

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The entire security package for Obama was a stark contrast to that of the Queen, and as expected, more like that of Bush’s visit in 2003.

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Constable Ian Stivala conducts a search of the Carillon prior to the POTUS visit — 2011

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Police provide a motorcade escort to ensure the security and protection of Her Majesty the Queen while en route — 2011
Image courtesy of The Canberra Times



“With this type of security package the speeds in which the motorcade travels are also increased (for protection purposes). We worked closely with the US Secret Service to ensure all necessary arrangements were made to protect the President.”

Leading up to and during the visit the Bomb Response Team manually searched 90 kilometres of underground tunnels, drains, light poles, roads to and from various locations, along with hotel lift wells, gutters, linen closets and rooms.

Security at all venues was tight, and the distance between the public and POTUS much greater than that normally afforded to dignitary visitors. Parliament House was locked down and roads were closed both ways during every motorcade movement, which included route security. The skies were patrolled day and night (by a RAAF fighter aircraft).

Always in the background, but with the world watching, ACT Policing delivered a series of highly professional ‘escorts’, through the Counter Terrorism and Emergency Management team, General Duties, Search and Rescue, Water Operations, ACT Policing Intelligence, the Bomb Response Team, Police Media and Traffic Operations.

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In uniform from left: Sergeant William (Bill) Evans, (then) Senior Constable Aaron Steff, and (then) Superintendent Michael Chew with President Obama’s Cadillac — 2011



2012

From left: Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaadvlieg, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell, Chief Minister for the ACT Katy Gallagher and AFP Commissioner Tony Negus, with members of the Belconnen Police Station and AFP Pipes and Drums at the official opening of the new station — 2012

Opening of a new Belconnen Police Station

In a rare and auspicious occasion, AFP Commissioner Tony Negus and Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaadvlieg were joined by Chief Minister for the ACT Katy Gallagher and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell to officially open the \$23.5 million Belconnen Police Station on 30 March 2012.

The opening of the police station marked the start of a new era for policing in the district. The new purpose-built, ultra-modern energy efficient building was a first in sustainability, and designed to serve the present and expected needs of a modern police service.



Commander Michael Chew, pivotal in the station’s design, said “our aspiration for the new station was to develop a contemporary workspace that allowed for greater flexibility and space, increased morale and longevity, and one that met the needs of police (operationally) and the community”.

Features include five holding cells, five secure interview rooms, five ‘soft’ interview rooms (for members of the public or victims of crime), a family counselling room, change rooms and a gym, staff kitchen and breakout area (courtyard), a sallyport (custodial transition facility) and the publicly available community meeting room.

Solar panels were installed to ensure the building’s energy rating was amplified, with the station infused with natural light and spacious open plan areas. High ceilings with passive chilled beams run water to keep airflow circulating, and white sun filter panels angled due east to reflect bright sunlight off the building keeps it cool during Canberra’s summer.

Advanced energy-saving measures, such as evacuated tube-type solar technology to generate the hot water supply, have been added to further reduce the station’s energy ‘footprint’.

Presenting an open and friendly appearance to the general public was also a prerequisite for the building design. Extensive wood panelling and flooring in public waiting areas gives a softness while the hard areas where holding cells and interview rooms are located are, out of necessity, more durable.

Members of Belconnen Police Station hold an honour guard at the official opening — 2012

“Our aspiration for the new station was to develop a contemporary workspace that allowed for greater flexibility and space, increased morale and longevity, and one that met the needs of police (operationally) and the community.

AFP Pipes and Drums lead Belconnen Police Station members as part of the Station Opening Parade along Benjamin Way — 2012

The five interview rooms and holding cells are contained within what is known as the ‘hard area’ of the station, with each cell having natural light and an element of privacy while still satisfying custodial needs.

The private central courtyard forms the hub of the station and provides a sanctuary for ACT Policing officers — and the resident lizards — when needed.

It was sometime during the 1980s that the first *Tiliqua scincoides scincoides* (Blue Tongue) lizard arrived at the Belconnen Police Station. A Belconnen patrol member is said to have found an injured lizard on duty and brought it back to the station to heal. Not long after, the now 10 lizards became part of the ‘furniture’, and much thought was given to them when designing the new station’s courtyard.

Along with the lizards, members of Belconnen Police Station moved into their new ‘home’ on 31 January 2012.

As part of its official opening the Belconnen Police Station opened its doors to the public on 31 March. More than 5000 members of the community took the opportunity to tour the new state-of-the-art station and enjoy the displays and entertainment.

The official opening was the culmination of four years of consultation and work between the ACT Government’s Justice and Community Safety Directorate, building architects BVN Architecture, building contractors St Hilliers and ACT Policing.

Officer-in-Charge of Belconnen Police Station Matt Corbitt raises the station’s flags together with Sergeants Mike Barber and Carol Uhe, symbolising the partnership between police, the government and community — 2012

2012

Introduction of load bearing vests

Load bearing vests became available for operational members in May 2012, providing an alternative to the 8 kilograms accoutrements belt.



The load bearing vest was introduced to frontline officers in 2012

The holster that officers would slide onto their belts — circa 1970s

Load bearing vests were introduced in recognition of the need for operational members to be ready to face any modern day policing challenge. They are designed to be equipped with handcuffs, a baton, OC spray, a spare magazine (for the firearm) and a police issued radio. Trained frontline Sergeants are also equipped with an electrical incapacitate (Taser).

The vests were designed to reduce the load carried around the waist and hips by the traditional police belt introduced in the 1980s, and accommodates all accoutrements except the firearm. Before the traditional police belt, officers used to slide a holster and a handcuff pouch on to their trouser belts, and placed their baton in a special 'slip pocket' cut in to their uniform-issued trousers.

The assessment for the adoption of load bearing vests began in 2009, and included a lengthy consultation period, and extensive trialling of the new vest for occupational health and safety as well as operational reasons. Operational safety training was also modified to ensure officers who wore the vest were re-trained in the deployment of accoutrements.

The vests, which were thought to look too 'tactical' at first, are a stark contrast to the handbag policewomen carried for their gun and handcuffs in the 1960s.

Similar vests are used by Western Australia, NSW and Victoria Police.



The AFP's Specialist Response Group (SRG) commenced operation on 1 July 2012 through the amalgamation of two specialist policing elements within the AFP; ACT Policing's Specialist Response and Security (SRS) function and the International Deployment Group's Operational Response Group (ORG).

The SRS had been established in 2002 to address the specialist needs of the ACT, while the ORG was established in 2005 to fulfil the requirements of the AFP's national and international operations.

The SRG was established as a result of recommendations from two separate reviews (Leahy and Beale Reviews), to consider a more efficient and effective operating model for the delivery of specialist policing services by the AFP.

The amalgamation completed a two-and-a-half-year project to implement the two key reforms of centralising the ORG in Canberra from Brisbane and Melbourne, and its subsequent merger with ACT Policing's specialist tactical function.

The creation of the SRG launched Australia's largest specialist capability function, and provides tactical operations and response locally in the ACT, nationally and internationally.

The group comprises tactical response, police negotiators, canines, bomb response, water operations and air support.

2012

Launch of the Specialist Response Group

Tactical members at the launch of the Specialist Response Group — 2012

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus with Minister for Home Affairs and Justice Jason Clare speak to the media at the launch of the Specialist Response Group — 2012



2012

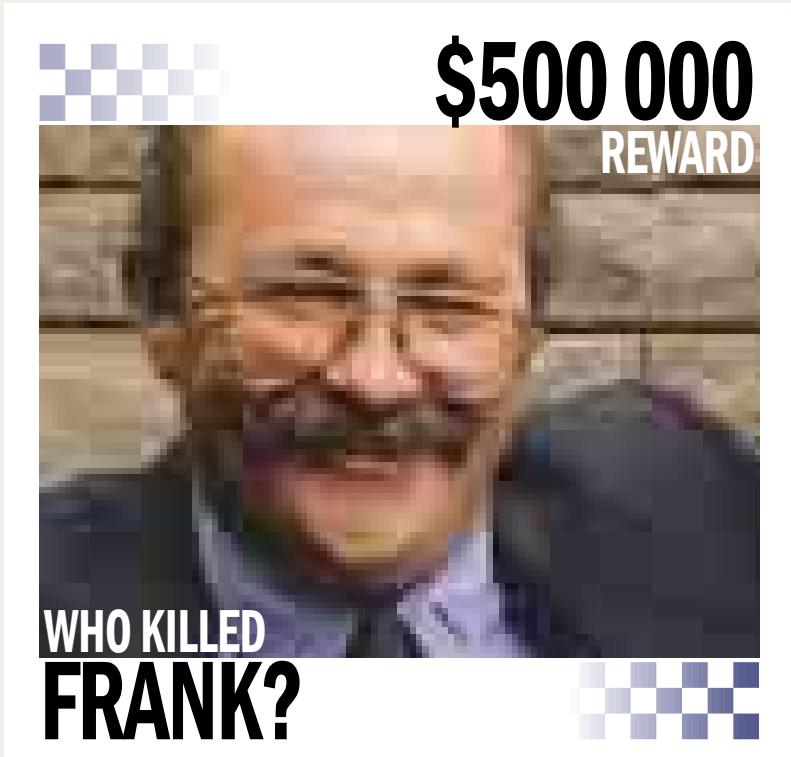
Police search the Mugga Lane tip in an effort to locate Frank Campbell's clothing and murder weapon — 2005

A step to solve the unsolved

The largest rewards package in the ACT of \$2 million was announced by Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell in September 2012 for information relating to four unsolved homicides in the ACT.

Four \$500 000 rewards for the brutal murders of Irma Palasics (aged 72) in 1999, Kathryn Grosvenor (aged 23) in 2002, Susan Winburn (aged 45) in 2004, and Frank Campbell (aged 45) in 2005 would be paid for information that led to the arrest and subsequent conviction of the person or people responsible for the respective murders.

While detectives had been working hard on the cases, in some instances for more than 10 years, the rewards were posted as a deliberate incentive for people with information that could help solve the crimes to come forward.



The four cases had been identified and were considered by ACT Policing’s Criminal Investigations function as capable of being solved because of the available evidence and circumstances surrounding each case.

In the case of Kathryn Grosvenor and Susan Winburn the reward was doubled from previous reward offers of \$250 000 each. The reward for Irma Palasics increased from \$400 000; and a reward was offered for the first time for information relating to the murder of Frank Campbell in his Mawson unit in May 2005. He died as a result of blunt force trauma to his head and was last seen at the Mawson Club the night of his murder at about 9.45pm Sunday 1 May.

Detective Superintendent Brett McCann — who had initially worked on the Grosvenor case — had said that “police had identified persons of interest” with respect to each of the four cases, and that police believed that sufficient information existed within the community: “given that a number of years — seven in the most recent case — has lapsed since these murders took place, those people who have that vital information may now be in a different situation than they were previously, and therefore prepared to come forward,” Detective Superintendent McCann said.

Police recover the body of Kathryn Grosvenor near Yarralumla Bay — 2002

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell with Detective Superintendent Brett McCann at the press conference launch of the \$2 million reward package — 2012

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Given that a number of years — seven in the most recent case — has lapsed since these murders took place, those people who have that vital information may now be in a different situation than they were previously, and therefore prepared to come forward.



Kathryn Anne Grosvenor was found dead, weighed down by a concrete bollard in Lake Burley Griffin on 9 March 2002. There was an unconfirmed sighting of Ms Grosvenor at the George Harcourt Inn in Nicholls on 3 March 2002. She died of multiple stab wounds.

Irma Palasics was found dead in her McKellar premises on Saturday 6 November 1999 following a home invasion, and died as the result of a serious assault.

Susan Elizabeth Winburn was found dead inside her Gordon premises at 81 Knoke Avenue about 12.40pm on Tuesday 13 January 2004. Ms Winburn was last seen alive at the Erindale Shopping Centre, Wanniasa. She died as a result of neck compression.

Reward posters, public appeal videos, crime scene footage, images, and information about the four murders was published online, through various media outlets, and distributed across the ACT and NSW.

While a number of information reports were received by homicide detectives, all four murders remain unsolved.

Two other murders — that of six-year-old Allen Redston found dead next to a creek bed in Curtin in 1966, and 20-year-old Keren Rowland in 1971 — also remain unsolved.

The reward poster for Frank Campbell who was murdered in Mawson in 2005

A pair of electric blue platform boots similar to those Kathryn Grosvenor was last seen wearing in 2002 have never been located

2013

Looking back to move forward



The year 2013 began with an intense focus on three major bodies of investigative work — Operation JAQEN, the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART), and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The first of these investigations was triggered in November 2012, following an announcement by the Minister for Defence Stephen Smith. DART, of which AFP Assistant Commissioner Rudi Lammers is a member, was formed to collect and assess allegations of sexual and physical abuse within the Australian Defence Force that occurred prior to 11 April 2011.

With more than 1100 historical cases identified by recent reviews, the taskforce, comprising two detectives from ACT Policing’s Criminal Investigations team, will assess misconduct allegations to refer to relevant State or Territory police services for investigation.

In the same month (November), a second major national enquiry was initiated when Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The first hearing of which took place in April 2013.

The Royal Commission has been charged with examining the sexual abuse of children in the context of institutions throughout Australia, and how such institutions — government agencies, schools, sporting clubs, orphanages, religions organisations — have managed and responded to allegations of child sexual abuse and related matters.

Given the massive scope, scale and seriousness of the Royal Commission, which is led by Justice Peter McClellan AM, a further five Commissioners were announced to support the inquiry, each appointed for a period of three years. A number of police-led investigations are certain to result in each State and Territory.

Officers catalogued boxes of evidence, statements and images for Operation JAQEN — 2013



Closer to home, detectives began reviewing hundreds of archived files relating to the investigation into the 1989 shooting murder of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester (Chief Police Officer for the ACT at the time), and the subsequent conviction of David Harold Eastman in 1995.

A new inquiry into Eastman’s guilt was ordered by Justice Shane Marshall in August 2012 after a witness claimed to have borrowed Eastman’s car to go rabbit shooting and placed his .22 rifle in the boot, resulting in gunshot residue which directly linked Eastman to the murder.

While the Eastman conviction is familiar to some and after more than 20 years, a vague and distant memory to most, Operation JAQEN began in January 2013 with the digital cataloguing of the thousands of pages of statements, submissions, images, forensic reports and diary notes. In all, some 400 boxes of evidence will have been assessed in the lead-up to the enquiry, with fresh material such as ballistics testing, to follow.

Like all three major investigations, after a turbulent start marred with allegations of bias and conflicts of interest, the enquiry into Eastman’s murder conviction is likely to take some years before those involved, and his family, can once again move forward.

Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester, murdered in 1989



1927–2013



Chief Police Officers

The inaugural ‘Canberra police’ fell under the auspices of the Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) until 1938 when the name changed to Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory). At this time, the title Chief Officer was used.

The title of Commissioner for the ACT Police was introduced in 1957 and changed to Assistant Commissioner, ACT, with the creation of the AFP in 1979.

In 1999 the title Chief Police Officer for the ACT was introduced, and remains until this day. The position has at times carried the rank of Deputy Commissioner.

The Chief Police Office for the ACT reports to the Minsiter for Police and Emergency Services along with the AFP Commissioner Tony Negus, who was sworn in to the position on 7 September 2009.

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Former Chief Officer — Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory and Australian Capital Territory) Colonel Harold E Jones, who established Canberra’s first police force — *circa* 1930s

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Former ACT Police Commissioner Ted Richards — 2011

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Former Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Peter Dawson

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Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan — 2013

Name	Year	Title
Harold E. Jones	1927–38	Chief Officer of Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory)
	1938–43	Chief Officer of Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory)
Robert Reid	1943–55	Chief Officer of Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory)
Ted Richards	1955–57	Commissioner — Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory)
	1957–66	Commissioner — ACT Police
Len Powley	1966	Commissioner — ACT Police
Roy Wilson	1966–77	Commissioner — ACT Police
Reg Kennedy	1977–79	Commissioner — ACT Police
Alan Watt	1979–82	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police
Val McConaghy	1982–87	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police
Colin Winchester	1987–89	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police
Brian Bates	1989–92	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police

Name	Year	Title
Peter Dawson	1992–95	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police
Jim Allen (jointly)	1995	Deputy Commissioner, Australian Federal Police
Mick Palmer (jointly)	1995	Commissioner, Australian Federal Police
Bill Stoll	1995–99	Assistant Commissioner — ACT, Australian Federal Police
	1999–2000	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
John Murray	2000–04	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
John Davies	2004–05	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
Audrey Fagan	2005–07	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
Shane Connelly/ Andy Hughes	2007	Acting Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
Mike Phelan	2007–10	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police
Roman Quaedvlieg	2010–13	Chief Police Officer for the ACT (ACT Policing), Australian Federal Police



Australian Federal Police insignia

Since 19 October 2006 a single generic shoulder patch — comprising the AFP badge on a black background with subdued white piping — is worn on all AFP uniforms.

For most of the 20th century, Australian police services followed the British police practice of uniformed officers displaying few tangible signs of police insignia, apart from the hat badge and chevrons or shoulder boards with insignia for senior officers.

In the 1970s, a gradual move occurred in which each Australian jurisdiction introduced some form of shoulder patch which identified the service the officer was from. This move was a copy of European and American practices.

By the late 1970s, each State and Territory police force had developed a shoulder patch that included either the service’s logo, crest or jurisdiction’s Coat of Arms, like the ACT Police patch.

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The AFP shoulder patch worn by officers pre-2006 (left) and post-2006 (right)



Elements of the AFP insignia

The Chevron

Chevron is an architectural term denoting the rafters of a roof meeting an angle at the upper apex. The chevron in heraldry was employed as a badge of honor to mark the main supporters of the head of the clan and it came to be used in various forms as an emblem of rank for knights and men-at-arms in feudal days.

Legend has it that the chevron was awarded to a knight to show he had taken part in capturing a castle, town, or other building, and the chevron resembled the roofs. It is believed this resulted in its use as an insignia of grade by the military.

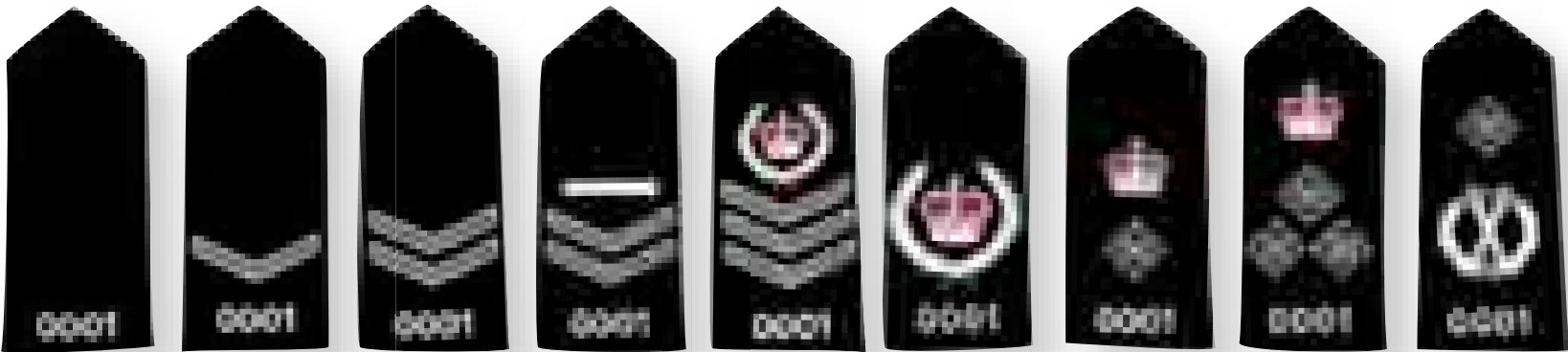
While chevrons have their origins in heraldry, the method of denoting sub-officers rank is borrowed from the military, which first adopted it in the present form in 1813.

The first police force to use this method of indicating rank was the Royal Irish Constabulary.

St Edwards Crown

Also known as the Queen’s Crown, St Edwards Crown is one of the most important items of royal regalia and has been the official crown used on police, government and service insignia since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne in 1952.

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The former ACT Police shoulder patch was introduced in the mid-1970s



Bath Star

The Bath Star (pip) is an adaptation of the insignia worn by the Knight Grand Cross of the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of Bath. It is the highest order of British Knighthood dating back to 1603.

The Bath Star is composed of rays of silver, charged with an eight-pointed (Maltese) cross. In the centre, on a silver background, are three imperial crowns surrounded by a band in which the Order’s motto, *Tria iuncta in uno* (Latin for three joined in one) is inscribed. This central device is surrounded by two branches of laurel.

The motto was first used in the reign of James I (and VI of Scotland) and was historically thought to refer either to the Union of England, Scotland and France, or to the Union of England, Scotland and Ireland, or to the Holy Trinity.

The Wreath and Crossed Batons

The wreath represents victory. In Roman times a victor, be it in battle or in sport (e.g. chariot racing), was awarded a wreath which was worn on the head as a crown of victory. The batons, also of Roman origin, represent authority, however, they are said to be based on the tipstaves used by London’s Bow Street Runners in the mid-1700s. The staves were used primarily as a weapon. It was also rumoured that the Runners carried their warrants inside them, but in reality this was not the case.

Ranks and insignia

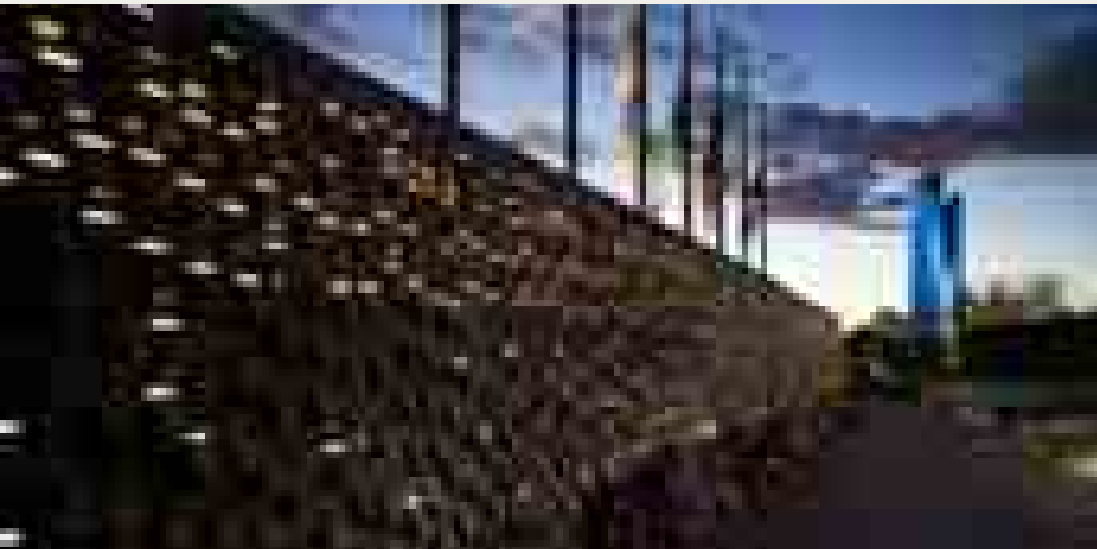
There are nine ranks within ACT Policing; beginning with Constable, and the highest that of the Chief Police Officer for the ACT as an AFP Assistant Commissioner.

Rank	Level/Experience	Epaulettes
Commissioner	Commissioner	Wreath and crossed batons surmounted by a pip and crown
Deputy Commissioner	Deputy Commissioner	Wreath and crossed batons surmounted by a crown
Chief Police Officer for the ACT	Assistant Commissioner	Wreath and crossed batons with a pip
Deputy Chief Police Officer	Commander (SES Band 1)	Three pips in a triangle surmounted by a crown
Superintendent	Band 9	Pip surmounted by a crown
Station Sergeant	Band 8 – Sergeant (in roles determined by the Commissioner)	Crown and wreath with no chevrons
Sergeant	Band 6 – 8	Three chevrons, a crown and a wreath
Leading Senior Constable	Band 5, Senior Constable	Two chevrons with a bar
Senior Constable	6+ years (to Band 5)	Two chevrons
First Constable	4 – 6 years	One chevron
Constable	0 – 4 years	Blank

.....
Left to right: Constable First Class, Senior Constable, Leading Senior Constable, Sergeant, Station Sergeant (Officer-in-Charge), Superintendent, Commander, Assistant Commissioner (Chief Police Officer)



Honour Roll



The National Police Memorial in Kings Park, Canberra, lists the names of 750-plus officers who have died in the line of duty. Of these officers, 11 of the deceased either undertook federal policing duties or lived and worked in the ACT.

The National Police Memorial was dedicated on 29 September 2006 — National Police Remembrance Day.

The memorial pays tribute to Australian police officers who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties, and to recognise the unique nature of policing and the dangers police face in their daily pursuits.

The stone wall features a cast bronze panels (touchstones) inscribed with the names of every fallen officer since the advent of policing in Australia.

The random composition of the touchstones represents the unexpected nature of the loss. The uneven floor, representing the uncertainty of policing, is inscribed with inspiration quotes chosen by family, friends and colleagues.

Constable Robert John Bishop was the first officer to be killed in the ACT.

Constable Frederick James Bannear (Commonwealth Peace Officer) 25 July 1882 – 9 September 1945

Constable Bannear was a Commonwealth Peace Officer, and was struck and fatally injured by a locomotive train during shunting operations while working in Fremantle.

Constable Robert John Bishop (ACT Police) 8 February 1946 – 10 February 1968

Constable Bishop was sworn into the ACT Police in August 1965 and was attached to the General Duties Branch and Accident Squad. He died from injuries suffered when his police vehicle collided with a tree on Canberra Avenue.

Constable Richard Leslie Norden DCM (ACT Police) 24 August 1948 – 30 October 1972

Constable Norden was in Recruit Training for the ACT Police at the time of his accident. He died as a result of injuries sustained in a police motorcycle accident.

Senior Constable John Michael Zegenhagen 25 March 1949 – 4 August 1984

Senior Constable John Zegenhagen joined the Commonwealth Police in January 1974. While on police duty on 9 June 1978, he suffered serious injuries sustained in a vehicle collision while engaged in Diplomatic and Consular Security. He died as a result of those injuries.

.....

The National Police Memorial in Kings Park, Canberra, was dedicated in September 2006

Police ode

As the sun surely sets, dawn will see it arise, for service above self, demands its own prize. You have fought the good fight, life’s race has been run, and peace your reward, for eternity begun.

And we that are left, shall never forget, rest in peace friend and colleague, for the sun has now set. We will remember.

Hasten the Dawn

Assistant Commissioner Colin Stanley Winchester APM 18 October 1933 – 10 January 1989

Assistant Commissioner Winchester is Australia’s most senior police officer to have been killed in the line of duty. At the time of his death he was the Assistant Commissioner in charge of community policing within the ACT. He was shot and killed as he parked his car in the driveway of his neighbour’s house in Deakin.

Constable David Anthony Hanswyk 23 June 1963 – 12 May 1990

Constable David Hanswyk worked in General Duties and the Central Traffic Branch in the ACT. He died as a result of injuries sustained in a police motorcycle accident in Canberra.

Superintendent Robert Edmund Shepherd 6 September 1946 – 19 May 1993

Superintendent Robert Shepherd was among 132 passengers killed in an air crash in Colombia. At the time he was on operational liaison duties.

Federal Agent Stephen Richard Hill 17 November 1958 – 13 March 1996

Federal Agent Stephen Hill joined the AFP in 1980. He served as a uniformed officer in Canberra before moving to national police duties in Sydney, Canberra and Perth. He died in a twin-engine Cessna air crash while on a drug operation.

Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning 20 February 1978 – 22 December 2004

Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning joined the AFP in April 2003 and deployed as a member of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands in 2004. He was shot and killed while on patrol in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Federal Agent Mark David Scott 9 October 1965 – 7 March 2007

Federal Agent Mark Scott joined the AFP in 1987 initially serving in the ACT. Flying as a member of an advance team for a ministerial visit to Yogyakarta, he was among 21 passengers who died as a result of a crash landing.

Federal Agent Brice Steele 11 August 1971 – 7 March 2007

Federal Agent Brice Steele was appointed to the AFP in 1990. Flying as a member of an advance team for a ministerial visit to Yogyakarta, he was among 21 passengers killed as a result of a crash landing.





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