

# EDITORIAL



## *Biennial Conference*

The Victorian Branch is to be congratulated upon the resounding success of the Conference held in Melbourne from the 3rd July, 1989 to the 6th July, 1989. Your Editor had the misfortune to be overseas at the time and so missed attending the Conference. From all reports, however, the papers were stimulating, the discussion fruitful, the organisation first class and the social events thoroughly enjoyable. As to the last, the accompanying picture would seem to bear out the reports.

Over the next few issues of the journal, we will concentrate on bringing to all of our readers the papers that were presented at the Conference. The theme was "Crime: Inevitable or Preventable?" The opening address was given by The Honourable Lionel F. Bowen, the Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney-General of Australia. The Minister was more than well-qualified to perform that task. He studied law and was admitted to practise as a solicitor before he entered politics. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly in New South Wales before entering Federal Parliament. He has been Attorney-General for the Commonwealth since the 13th December, 1984 and, as such, he has ministerial responsibilities in such areas as human rights, family law, consumer affairs and criminal law and policy. He has a continuing interest in matters of crime prevention and in 1985 was one of those to attend the 7th United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

The Minister's address set the theme for the Conference and it is with great pleasure that we bring you the first selection of papers from it in this issue.

## *News From The States*

The Victorian Branch has, of course, had its hands full with the organisation of the Conference. It is only fitting that we should place on record our gratitude to all those who played a part in making the Conference the success that it was. Special thanks are due to the core organisers: John Van Groningen, Peter Ling, Michael Benes, Glenda James, Helen Leyshon, Innez Dussuyer, Barbara Penhall and Lesley Coleman. Gratitude should also be expressed to Ansett Airlines and Travelworld for assistance with publicity, travel and accommodation, State Government Employees Co-operative Limited for providing conference folders and to Gestetner for providing photocopying facilities during the Conference.

The New South Wales Branch organised a very successful seminar in Wollongong in April, 1989. The seminar was so successful that consideration is being given to holding the next Biennial Conference in that city. Subjects canvassed at the seminar included "Crime and the aged", "Neighbourhood Watch and Community Policing - Recent Innovations", "Drugs and crime - crime and drugs" and "Corrimal detectives - business crime".

It is sad to report that the Queensland Branch has become inactive. At the Conference, however, Mr. Clive Begg reported that the Queensland Police and Corrective Services were both supportive of the idea of re-establishing the Branch. He agreed to act as the representative of the Northern State on the Executive with a view to restoring the Branch to its former vigor.

**D.M. BREBNER** (*Editor*)