

FOR SOME MEMBERS . . .

## It's a dog's life



by the Editor

The establishment of AFP grew by six members (of the canine variety) on its first day of operation on Friday, 19th October, when Roscoe, Fonzie, Byron, Rada and bitches Tara and Dena were "howled-in". Following the "howling-in" each was presented with an inscribed bone. The occasion was the completion of 12 weeks' training at the Dog Handlers' Course conducted at the Defence Research Centre at Salisbury, South Australia.

Although dog handlers' courses have been conducted over the past six years, it was a "first" with individual handlers and their own dogs.

Already all have received their postings: Dena, Byron and Fonzie to Eastern Division with handlers First Constable Lewis Hutchinson and Constables Peter Skarlis and Mark Ward; Rada, Roscoe and Tara have taken up duties in the Southern Division with Handlers Constables Eric Philpot and Stephen Potter and Senior Constable Terry Wright.

All the dogs are German Shepherds with good pedigrees and they range from 13 to 15 months old.

The kennels at Salisbury has a staff of two instructors, Senior Constable Don Everett and Constable Ron Fielder, and two assistants, Constables Stan Harness and John Young.

The four male dogs will be used

for general duties such as property seeking, tracking, and building searches (to indicate presence of persons or a particular object).

The females (no doubt due to their intuition and logical reasoning), though similarly trained, will be used exclusively for detecting explosives only, such as gelignite, plastic, TNT and gun-powder.

When asked of any problems arising during the course Senior Constable Everett said the only incident that occurred during the duration was when Roscoe fell ill and was operated on for a hernia. Both he and his handler were placed on light duties for the next ten days, but came back more fit than ever.