



Pictured at the Australian Federal Police College, Canberra, recently, the Commissioner and college instructional staff with officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary who attended a 12-week officers' course.

DIVING—A DEDICATION

by the Editor

Sergeant Alan (Dutchy) Holland, OIC of the A.C.T. Division Water Police, is a man of many roles, but his forte concerns saving lives and educating the public on water safety.

Alan 37, was born in Sheffield, UK, came to Australia at the age of eight, and with his parents settled in Albury NSW. On leaving school, he joined the NSW Police Cadets, but after one year resigned to join his brother in the plumbing industry. Not overly enthusiastic about pick and shovel work, he joined the former COMPOL in 1962 and after four and a half years resigned to join the former A.C.T. Police.

His police career has included four years on general duties, three years as a Traffic Branch motorcyclist, one year as Rural Patrol Officer, one year as Sergeant in the Communication Unit, a short term in the Crime Intelligence Unit and, for the past year, OIC of the Water Police and Sergeant-in-Charge of the Underwater Recovery Unit.

Alan has undertaken and passed courses ranging from Supervision/Human Relations, Map Reading, Search/Rescue Techniques and Rescue Instructors' courses with



various Australian and world recognised agencies.

A diver for eight years and involved with the search and rescue squad for eleven years, becoming a master of the theory and practical knowledge of saving the lives of people in distress in remote locations has been one of his primary objectives. This dedication to diving has earned Alan the unique distinction of being one of the highest qualified police divers in Australia.

Since 1974 he advanced from

diver class two to advance diver, completing a two-year course at the Australian National University covering such subjects as navigation, marine biology, underwater photography, decompression treatment, underwater demolition and cutting equipment.

Not content with this course under his 'air tank', Alan enrolled with the Federation of Australian Underwater Instructors to complete his advanced diver's and instructor's ticket.

His qualifications include Diver/advanced Diver (Australian Underwater Federation), Advanced diver/Instructor (Federation of Australian Underwater Instructors), Police Diver (N.S.W. Police Force), and Rescue Instructor (National Emergency Services College) and Advanced diver (Australian National University).

For life saving he has undertaken courses with the St John Ambulance Association and the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia

Besides holding certificates for First Aid, he has the RLSS bronze medallion, the sub-aqua bronze medallion, and is an instructor in resuscitation and sub-aqua diving, as well as being examiner for the Society.

During his police career Alan has been the recipient of three Commissioner's Commendations. Alan has offered to write two articles for 'Platypus' on water safety and boating and these will be published in following issues.