

PNG gets tough on drug couriers



• Inspector Tuka receives a special plaque from Sergeant Steve Polden of the NT Combined Drug Enforcement Unit, in commemoration of his visit to Darwin.

WHILE hard drugs have not infiltrated the lives of the people of Papua New Guinea, the country is becoming increasingly popular as a transit point for dangerous drugs being brought into Australia.

One of the men helping to fight the problem is Senior Inspector Gabriel Tuka of the National Drug Squad, a unit attached to the New Guinea Police Force.

Inspector Tuka is currently in Australia as a guest of the Federal Police to study drug enforcement techniques and facilities being used in this country.

He has just completed a study of how things happen on the drug scene in the Top End and is now on his

way to study enforcement units at work in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

While based in Darwin, Inspector Tuka visited the Broome region of Western Australia and other parts of the Territory.

Before leaving Darwin this week the visiting New Guinea drug officer talked of the relatively minor drug problem among the people of his country.

He said while soft drugs were around and authorities had some problems with cannabis plantations, hard drugs had not become a problem in New Guinea.

But his country had become a noted international transit point for

narcotic drugs and authorities were deeply concerned about this trend.

Just recently, New Guinea police seized a large quantity of hashish bound for the Australian east coast market.

Inspector Tuka is stationed in Port Moresby but travels throughout the country in pursuit of evidence of drug offenders.

His main purpose in coming to Australia has been to gain more experience to pass on to fellow officers in New Guinea's relatively new drug division.

It was at the special request of the New Guinea Government that Inspector Tuka came to the Territory first on his Australian tour.

TO OUR UNSUNG HERO

*He's shaped like a bottle,
Our connie of old.*

*It comes from him sucking
On cans of cold gold.
As fitness fanatics
Fly past like the breeze,
Our connie plods on
With a grunt and a sneeze.*

*He smokes like a chimney
And drinks like a fish.
And he's never been known
To knock back a dish
Of hot or cold tucker,
It's one and the same
'Cause eating is really
His favourite game.*

*A real "Norm" is our hero
Who eats on the run;
To shed a few pounds
He just takes off his gun
And handcuffs
And holster
And hat
And great coat
And jumper
And tunic . . .*

*So he keeps growing thicker,
He has a gut like a steer,
And his trusty old ticker
Keeps running on beer.*