

MEET OUR NEW EDITOR

Platypus has a new editor, Senior Constable Susan Beatty.

Susan is already a familiar figure in the ACT, where she recently took over the AFP weekly column in the Canberra Times. She has also begun appearing in the public eye on the weekly "Police Seven" Canberra television show since joining the Canberra Public Relations Unit earlier this year.

Susan brings a great depth of police experience to the editor's desk at Platypus. She became a fourth-generation police officer when she followed her now-retired father, sergeant 1st class Norman Beatty, into the NSW Police Force in 1966. After being stationed mostly in Wollongong, she came to Canberra in 1972 to join the then-ACT Police. Three and a half years in the Women Police Office and General Duties Section was followed by four years in the offices of then-Commissioners



Sue Beatty

Roy Wilson and Reg Kennedy. Following amalgamation in November 1979, Susan was seconded to the Federal Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drugs, working with a joint investigation team in Queensland.

Our new editor says her new job is an enormous challenge, adding that she has always thought of writing as the ultimate creative occupation. Her literary talents have already been evidenced in Platypus, with a thoughtful article on women in policing in our very first edition, and in the Federal Police Association Journal, where for more than four years her column "On and Off the Beat" has appeared.

Platypus also thanks the outgoing editor, Dani Rogers, who has moved on to Eastern Division Protective Services in Sydney, for her considerable efforts over the past year.

HUMANE SOCIETY AWARD FOR MODEST HEROINE

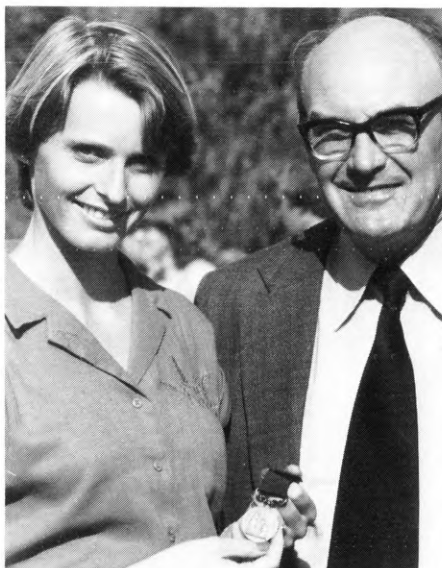
by Mark Lever

Mark Lever recently joined the staff of the Information Office in headquarters after spending some years with Australian Associated Press in the Federal Press Gallery. Mark is in charge of media liaison within the Australian Capital Territory.

A former Canberra school teacher, now living in Darwin, was rewarded for her bravery on Lake Burley Griffin more than two years ago when A.F.P. Commissioner Sir Colin Woods presented her with a Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal on the shores of the lake on March 21.

Mrs Rosemary Tweedie, 23, as Miss Rosemary Barwick was instrumental in saving the life of a schoolboy in a rowing mishap on the lake during the A.C.T. Rowing Association's annual marathon event on March 4, 1979.

Her efforts were not publicised at the time but the Royal Humane Society considered her efforts



worthy of their Bronze Medal.

Rosemary was a member of the A.N.U. Women's Four rowing crew competing in the event when a storm whipped up the lake near Kings Avenue Bridge, swamping a large number of competing crews including hers.

According to eyewitness accounts taken by police, the cox of the Canberra Grammar School First Eight, Grant Walker, then 17, got into difficulties when their shell began sinking.

The rest of the crew noticed Grant turning blue and semi-conscious, and began shouting and waving for help.

Continued next page

A second Canberra Grammar crew came to assist and managed to lift Grant into their shell but failed in their attempts at mouth to mouth resuscitation as his jaw was jammed shut.

Disregarding her own problems, Rosemary swam some 50-75 metres through the one-metre high chop, and took charge of the situation.

She managed to get Grant's mouth open and began mouth-to-mouth, continuing to do so for several minutes after he had responded until the Water Police boat arrived.

Rosemary then calmed and organised the Canberra Grammar crews, and assisted them in getting themselves and their boats ashore.

Police officers who investigated the incident reported that they believed Rosemary's intervention saved Grant's life.

Rosemary is a trained physical education teacher and taught at Canberra's Melrose High School last

year before moving to Darwin with her husband, Darwin City Council Acting Deputy Town Clerk Steven Tweedie.

However she flew back to Canberra especially for the presentation with the assistance of Ansett Airlines.

Rosemary said she was "surprised at the fuss" over her actions.

However the Commissioner told the crowd attending the A.C.T. Rowing Association Australian National University Regatta, during which the presentation was held, that while he had often decorated police officers for their courage, it was an all too rare privilege to honour a private citizen for showing selflessness and courage in an age when people often do not want to get involved.

Sir Colin said it was a pity that the A.F.P. Deputy Commissioner, Mr Reg Kennedy, was unable to make the presentation, because he

was responsible for Rosemary's bravery being recognised.

The Commissioner recalled that it was Mr Kennedy who, when Commissioner of the former A.C.T. Police, acted on the reports of the investigating officers and worked behind the scenes to gain the Royal Humane Society's approval for the award.

The A.F.P., and he was sure everyone else involved in that drama, wanted him to thank her for her efforts and example, Sir Colin said.

Grant Walker was unable to attend the presentation but reported that he was fully enjoying the life Rosemary saved at the University of Wollongong.

He also asked Sir Colin to pass the following message:

"Rosemary, I wish I could say I'll never forget what you did, but I can't remember a thing until I woke up in hospital. Once again I'd like to pass on my deepest thanks."

SENIOR P.N.G. OFFICERS ON FOURTH TRAINING COURSE

by Senior Constable Susan Beatty

The fourth training course for senior officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was officially opened on January 29 by AFP Commissioner Sir Colin Woods and the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner, Mr Austin Sapias.

The courses are being held at the AFP Training College, Barton, ACT, under an arrangement between the Australian Development Assistance Bureau and the AFP.

Sixty officers have successfully completed the previous twelve-week training programmes, and a further 20 with ranks ranging from Sub Inspector to Chief Inspector are on the current course. They were selected from provincial commands in Papua New Guinea. Segments of study to be undertaken include management, counter terrorist operations, training, general detective and drug investigation, operations

planning and airport policing. The course Liaison Officer, Chief Inspector Lewis Iara who graduated from the 1980 Canberra course, has been recently detached from the position of Provincial Police Commander, North Solomons, to be a member of the Directing Staff for the duration of this course.

During March the Course members travelled to Brisbane and Townsville for an introduction to airport policing attached to various Squads of the Federal and State Forces.

AFP Inspectors John Sharpe and Bill Griffiths headed the course, with a Directing Staff and their support team including Acting Inspector Michael Keating, Sergeant Lawrence Foster and First Constable Charles Griffith who is the Logistics and Administration Officer.

In welcoming the officers to Can-

berra Sir Colin pointed out they were in a position to make a great contribution to the future of their country. He said the course would enable them to study policing in a modern society with an orderly and programmed lifestyle where there is a basic appreciation of law and order.

Sir Colin also referred to the proper place of compassion in a Police Service; "If we don't have compassion for our subordinates how can we expect them to relate to people in the community?" he said.

The college took on an increasingly cosmopolitan air as the PNG course progressed.

In March, they were joined by 12 Malaysian narcotics enforcement officers in another ADAB-funded course. The Malaysians are spending eight weeks learning methods of training narcotics officers in their

Continued next page