

"EVER-INCREASING ROLE" FOR AFP

Initiatives now being taken will mean an increasingly important role for the A.F.P., according to our new Minister, Mr Kevin Newman.

Mr Newman told *Platypus* that he was happy to have the A.F.P. responsibility, both because of his military background and because the development of a first-class Federal police force was essential for the effective combatting of crime in Australia.

He is making an effort to familiarise himself with every aspect of A.F.P. operations by visiting as many establishments as possible around the country.

"I do feel a great deal of rapport and sympathy with the officers and men of the Force I have met so far", Mr Newman said.

"The impression I have got is that things are moving steadily forward in the Force.

"I am well aware that when you bring into being a new police force which combines the elements of other police forces and organisations, it does take time to settle down.

"It seems to me that is happening."

Mr Newman believes A.F.P. Members are looking forward to their new responsibilities and challenges, such as the upgrading of



some 700 protective service positions to the general policing component which he announced in December 1980 in one of his first acts as Minister.

He lists as A.F.P. priorities the narcotics role, the development of intelligence against organised crime and drug traffickers, the counter-terrorist capability and guarding VIPs.

But despite the growth in empha-

sis in these areas, policing the A.C.T. remains a "top priority", Mr Newman added.

Mr Newman said one of the highlights of the first few months in his new portfolio had been participation in the police Ministers' Council meeting in Perth.

"This was the meeting that took the final and decisive step to set up the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI)", he said.

"I believe that police, whether members of the A.F.P. or State forces, will be quick to recognise the long-term value to them and their careers of this new era of Commonwealth/State co-operation in law enforcement."

He sees a role in co-ordination and co-operation with other organisations — "even leadership" — for the A.F.P., in the establishment of police facilities such as the ABCI, a national research unit, an improvement in forensic services and in the relocation of the Australian Police College.

"Initiatives being taken both within the A.F.P. and with other police forces are going to give the A.F.P. an ever-increasing role.

"I believe we have a police force that will meet that task", Mr Newman said.

AFP HAS ANOTHER SHOW SUCCESS



The AFP exhibit was again a highlight of the Royal Canberra Show held from February 20 to 22, with the Safety Education Unit led by Senior Constable Dave Neenan putting on a large display.

Fingerprinting and "Junior Con-

stable" identification certificates proved popular with the youngsters, and by the end of the show the AFP had 9000 new "junior constables". Constable Ken Koala, the furry flat-foot from the "Junior Police Seven" television show, also kept the crowd

entertained.

Members of the Safety Education, Recruiting and Public Relations Units answered many queries about the force at the exhibit.

