



# Platypus

Australian Federal Police Staff Magazine

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## AFP Centre to be ready in 1987



A model of the new AFP headquarters planned for Canberra. It is due to be ready for occupation in 1987.

## \$21m. new HQ plans approved

Final sketch plans have been accepted for the \$21 million Australian Federal Police Headquarters in the heart of the national capital.

The 12-storey twin-towered building with its crushed granite exterior, will be a striking new addition to Canberra's City Centre buildings.

The site is near the Lakeside Hotel.

As the architects, Ancher, Mortlock and Woolley Pty Ltd, point out: "The site is one of the corners of London Circuit, the hexagonal road around City Hill. This hexagon and its relationship to City Hill is a significant ingredient in Griffin's geometry for the layout of the city".

To get to the stage of acceptance of final sketch plans has taken years of negotiation.

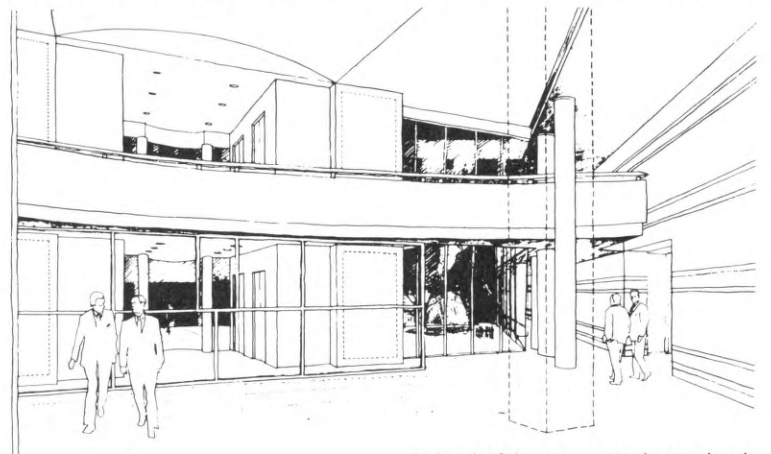
National Capital Development Commission Chief Architect, Mr Greg Deas said that tenders could be called late this year—for work to commence the same

year or early in 1985. The building would, however, not be occupied until mid-1987.

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**'Platypus' finally has re-emerged from a sojourn that has made it almost as elusive as the unique Australian monotreme after which it takes its name.**

The newspaper is obviously YOUR newspaper, if done properly an end product that becomes much appreciated and hence an important internal communications tool. As it is your newspaper it needs your help to ensure its success.



A sketch of the entrance to the new headquarters.

## Platypus is back

AFP members are scattered across the length-and-breadth of our vast island continent and it is vital that the communication be two-way. To help achieve this a person has been appointed in each region as the contact point. In all but one case that person is the regional Welfare Officer. Welfare Officers, of course, are

not expected to become overnight journalists, but as they do hear so much of interest in any region they agreed to assist by becoming the 'eyes' and 'ears' of a team of regional consultant journalists who will help search out and write stories.

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# Minister names second Deputy

The appointment of Mr Roy Farmer, QPM, as a Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police was announced recently by the Special Minister of State, Mr Kim Beazley.

Mr Farmer is the second officer to be appointed to that rank, joining Deputy Commissioner Mr John Johnson.

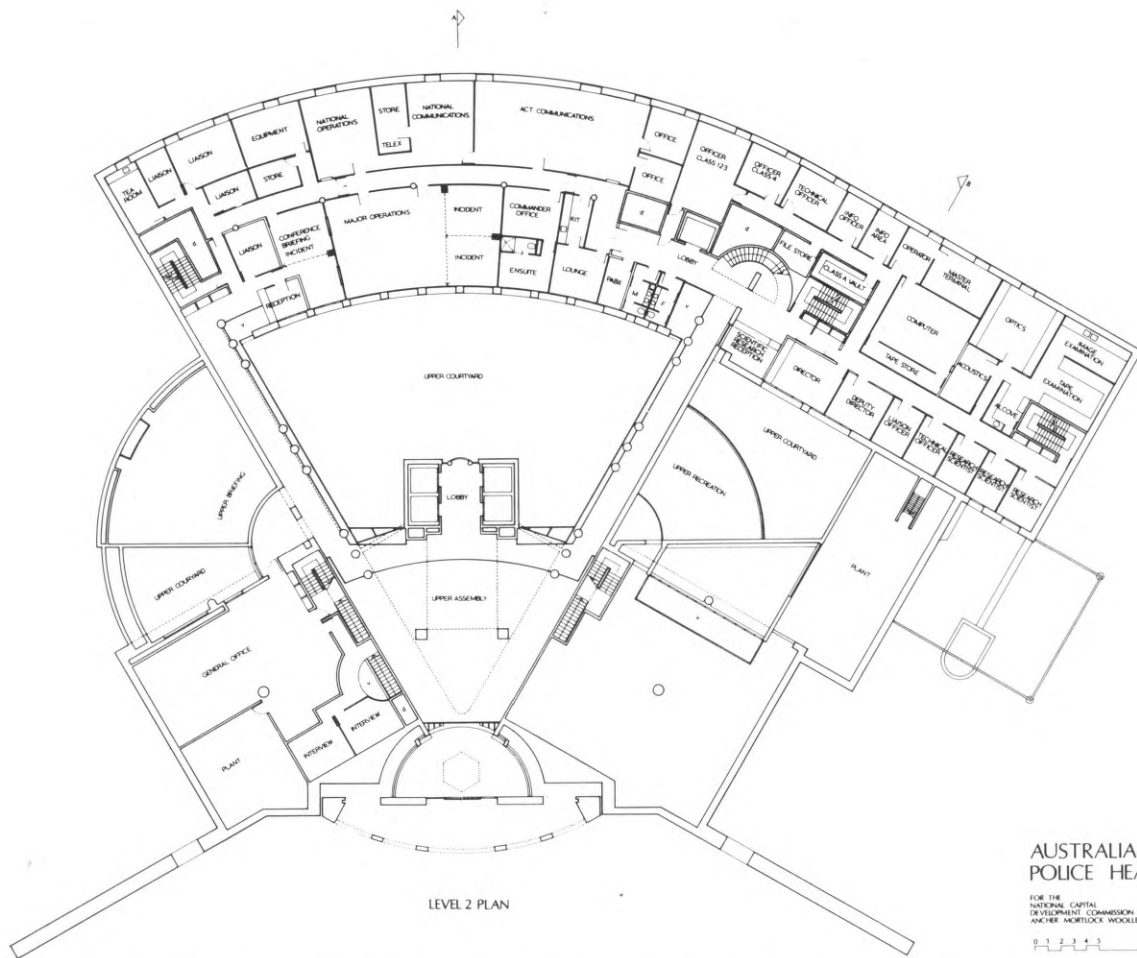
The Minister said that the appointment of Mr Farmer would be of considerable assistance to the Commissioner, Major-General R. A. Grey, in maintaining the high standard of general policing in the Australian Federal Police.

Mr Farmer, 51, joined the former Commonwealth Police in 1969, after serving in the New South Wales Police Force.

He has had a distinguished police career, rising to the rank of Acting Assistant Commissioner in the Commonwealth Police, before being appointed Assistant Commissioner in the Australian Federal Police in 1979.

In 1981 he went to the United Kingdom where he undertook the Senior Command Course at the Police Staff College, Bramshill.

Deputy Commissioner Mr Roy Farmer after taking his oath of office before the Chief Judge of the A.C.T. Supreme Court, His Honour Sir Richard Blackburn.



AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
ANCHER AND LOCKE WOOLLEY ARCHITECTS  
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A sketch plan of Level 2 of the new AFP headquarters, showing the layout of office accommodation on that floor.

## New HQ for AFP

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The AFP's projects officer for the building, Mrs Dorothy Poggio, said that detailed discussions had already begun on the extensive internal 'fitting out' of the building.

The building is designed to accommodate 600 people—providing accommodation for those AFP personnel presently scattered in numerous Canberra buildings such as MTIA House, NRMA House, Havelock House, Unit 5 and the Alexander and AMP Buildings.

Mrs Poggio said that major features of the building were the twin-tower design, its impressive entrance foyer, internal courtyard and the arrangements made to house specialist scientific and technical equipment.

A brief description of the building is:

**Ground Floor:** The main entrance foyer and also a medical centre and theatre, interview and briefing rooms and dining area which can, if necessary, for formal occasions accommodate 300 people. The area will have a general staff dining room and executive dining room. And a bar/recreation area which accesses an internal courtyard. The ground floor also contains the library and various exercise rooms.

**Level One:** This houses the operations rooms—one for Canberra and the other a

national operations room—the scientific directorate and various conference rooms and offices.

Level Two and upwards are the various open plan office accommodation and executive area.

As part of the security arrangements for the building, no windows are provided below a level of about six metres above the ground. The secure internal courtyard overcomes the problem of providing natural lighting to lower accommodation.

The whole of the exterior of the building will be centrally monitored with security cameras from the operations and communications areas.

The building also has extensive underground parking facilities. This area will be for official police vehicles only and is serviced by a number of lifts.

On higher levels, windowed facades face in all directions of the compass. Direct sunlight is controlled by the use of tinted windows and adjustable venetians between double glazing insulated window mullions.

In the typical office area, no point is more than eight metres from a window, providing a high level of natural light.

In keeping with other buildings in the area, the headquarters will have sheltered

pedestrian areas on all major street frontages, with the addition of deciduous trees to give shade in the summer and allow the sun to penetrate in winter.



**We all hear about the silent majority, those who support police, but don't say so publicly. Two did recently—in the nicest way.**

A card, under the heading "Just to Say Thank You Sincerely", arrived recently from Canberra resident, Helen M. Kenny.

Mrs Kenny, of Evatt, wrote:

"Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to the two members of your Police Force who showed us such kindness and consideration during the severe hail-storm, which hit the West Belconnen area on Saturday, December 10th.

I regret that I am unable to identify the policewoman and the policeman who came to our assistance. I know the lady was from Stirling and the gentleman, I think, was from the Spence area. Sadly,

## Some words of praise

today, we live in a society of "knockers", and people are very quick to criticise the Police. I wish you to know that these two members are a credit to themselves and to the ACT Federal Police.

My elderly mother was alone in the house when the storm hit. When the Police arrived, they were soaked to the skin and wearing only light clothing. They were able to reassure my mother and inspected the interior of the house for leaks, but not before showing their further consideration in removing their wet shoes before entering the house.

We had occasion to ring them again in the next two hours, and again they were prompt and considerate in their attention.

Once more, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them."

The second was from Mr Alan Rowe, a community worker with Queanbeyan City Council.

"Dear Commissioner Grey,

I am writing on behalf of the school board, kindergarten children and staff of Wanniasa Primary School, to thank you for the participation by the staff of Wanniasa Police Station on Friday 16 December, 1983.

Each year I play the part of Father Christmas for the Wanniasa Junior School and arrive with those Police who are available. They then assist in handing out lollipops and ice blocks. As part of my Christmas message I introduce the Police officers and I tell the children that the Police are their friends, they love them and care about their safety and happiness, and that

they will always help them.

It is great to see your men talking with the little children. It is a warm and happy occasion.

As the officers this year said: "It is a real change from either going to trouble or coming back from trouble."

Would you please convey our appreciation to Sgt. Evans, Sgt. McEvoy, Sr. Constables Fuller and Milliken and their colleagues.

As the community worker with Queanbeyan City Council, I appreciated the work of the police. Their job is the most difficult in the community and they do it with dedication.

We, in Canberra, are fortunate in the quality of the persons who make up our Police."