

Tracey ranks tops



Australian swimming great Tracey Wickham temporarily exchanged her bathing cap for something slightly less snug during a chance encounter recently with Australian Federal Police officers at Sydney's Airport Hilton Hotel.

The occasion was the annual "Baggage Derby", a fun-run event staged to raise funds for charity, and a fixture which usually attracts strong representation by teams from AFP and State police, airport staff and private companies.

The AFP squad of runners comprised Senior Constable Ian Evans and Constables Terry Venchiarutti and Kerry Davies.

Honorary AFP "Constable" Tracey Wickham tries a salute at Sydney's Airport Hilton.

Before the start of the event, Tracey dropped in to offer a few words of encouragement to the respective teams, and gladly accepted Senior Constable Evans' invitation to "join the ranks" . . . at least for the benefit of a morale-boosting photograph.

Now, having been granted extended "leave of absence" from the force, Tracey is back in the swim, training young hopefuls at one of Brisbane's leading sports centres.

Drug security changes to help cut risks

New security and destruction procedures for all illegal drug seizures have been introduced by the Commissioner, Major-General R. A. Grey, to minimise the risk of theft or substitution of seized drugs.

The Special Minister of State, Mr Kim Beazley, announced recently that the Australian Federal Police would no longer hold large quantities of seized drugs. Amounts held would be reduced to samples only, the remainder being destroyed as soon as possible after seizure.

The samples also would be destroyed immediately after prosecution.

The Commissioner has instituted the new security procedures after advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office. Previously the advice had been to hold total drug seizures for court purposes and in case there were subsequent investigations. Under the "best evidence" rule, the proof of charges required that the total quantity of the actual seizures be produced in court.

The Minister said that the view now was that judicial notice by the courts could be taken of secondary evidence subject to the development of appropriate sampling, photographic and certification procedures.

This was particularly sensible in view of the fact that in the last 15 months the AFP and Customs had jointly made seizures of heroin totalling more than 110 kilograms, worth millions of dollars.

Mr Beazley said the changes would help lessen the risks involved in drug seizures.

Existing AFP holdings were being independently audited by Department of Administrative Services Auditors and analysed by the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories (AGAL) so that quantities could be reduced to the minimum level as soon as possible.

However, the analysis of many drug samples took time. Commissioner Grey was consulting with the Government Analyst to ensure that large quantities of

drugs held by either the Federal Police or AGAL were kept for as short a period as possible.

ACT host to US IPA tour

The Australian Federal Police and ACT Region of the International Police Association recently hosted the Ninth Annual IPA Comparative Police Study Tour by the Californian IPA which visited the South Pacific.

It was the second time since 1976 that the tour had visited Australia, but the first time Canberra had been included on the itinerary.

Thirty-four members from 15 police organisations in California, all connected with law enforcement and justice administration, took part in the tour. It was arranged under the auspices of the Department of Criminal Justice at the Californian State University in Los Angeles.

The brief two-day visit enabled members to compare policing in the two countries. The role and responsibilities of the AFP were explained to the group by Deputy Commissioner Mr Roy Farmer, following a lunch hosted by the Commissioner, Major-General R. A. Grey, at the Police Academy.

Tour members were welcomed at the airport by Assistant Commissioner Ray McCabe, representing the Commissioner, accompanied by the Chairman of the ACT IPA, Mr Gary Tuckwood.

The group also went to the US Embassy for a meeting with the American Ambassador, Mr Robert Nesan.

After a brief tour of Canberra, the visitors attended a dinner-dance at Canberra Fair, hosted by the local IPA.

Before flying to New Zealand, the group visited Sydney and Melbourne.

AFP to have own Sword of Honour

A commemorative Sword of Honour has been designed for officers of the Australian Federal Police and the first stocks of them have arrived in Australia.

Wilkinson Sword Limited of London, England, has manufactured the limited edition of 200 swords to commemorate the formation of the Australian Federal Police.

Members can take pride in owning a fine example of craftsmanship. The artistry-in-steel is a rare and unusual show piece which can be exhibited and enjoyed.

The sword is hand forged, approximately 75 cms in length and its blade is hardened and tempered. The cross piece, shell guard and pommel is heavily plated in 18 ct gold and the rosewood grip is french polished to a mirror finish.

The swordsmith has etched on to the blade the badges of the three former or-

ganisations which became the AFP, together with the badge of the AFP.

Each sword has been individually numbered.

The names and addresses of the original recipients will be recorded for posterity and entered into the registers of British Ceremonial Imports Limited.

Recipients will own a legacy of history which can be passed along to future generations of families to serve as a reminder of a member's participation in the Police force.

As the sword is a presentation one, it is not accompanied by a scabbard.

The cost of the sword is \$295 and any swords not allocated will be purchased by the AFP Welfare Club.

A certificate of authenticity, also numbered, will accompany the sword. Inquiries can be directed to Inspector John Martin of the Commissioner's Office (062) 48 9353.



Mr Richard Grace (right) of the Californian Region of the International Police Association, presents an appreciation plaque to AFP Commissioner Major-General R. A. Grey during a luncheon at the Police Academy.