

AFP's retiring Medical Officer hands over

Dr Denys Butcher, a Cambridge medical graduate who spent nearly 25 years in private practise in Western Australia, has succeeded Dr Tony Marsh as the AFP's Director of Medical Services.

Dr Marsh, who has become very well known in the force during the past eight years, is retiring after a career spanning 45 years.

Dr Marsh's achievements are prodigious and his life has been full and fascinating.

Before his appointment — as he put it 'initially on a try it out basis' — as Forensic Medical Officer to the former ACT Police in 1976, Dr Marsh's background included:

- over 20 years as Director of Medical Services, Royal New Zealand Air Force, and Principal Medical Officer, Civil Aviation Branch;
- five years as Director-General of Medical Services, Royal Australian Air Force;
- five years with the Federal Health Department as a specialist in toxicology concentrating on the use of insecticides and agricultural chemicals generally as well as veterinary medicine in relation to human and animal safety.

His recreational pursuits have also given Dr Marsh almost as much pleasure as his full-time occupation. They include his

Aviation History



• Sydney International Airport squad member Sergeant Brian Bradley gets in the picture with Lieut. Randy MacFarlane and a piece of aviation history — a 40-year-old B25 World War II bomber. Lieut. MacFarlane flew the bomber from the United States to Australia, where ultimately it will be housed in the new Aircraft Hall at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra when it is finished in 1988. Meanwhile, the bomber, now named 'Spirit of Australia', will be used for exhibition purposes at air shows around Australia. Although some 10,000 of the now legendary bombers were produced, only 70 remain.

appointment as Patron of ACT Rugby Union and for some years its medical adviser, Past President of the Aviation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand, and an active association with the St. John Ambulance Association.

Dr Marsh was honoured with the Order of St. John in 1956, a Commander of St. John in 1961 and a CBE in 1962. In New Zealand he was appointed Honourary Physician to the Queen in 1952.

With this extensive professional and social service comes a wealth of reminiscences, anecdotes, and some strong opinions.

During his four-year association with the RAAF from 1967 to 1971, as Air Vice-Marshal Marsh, he oversaw the policy behind the procedures for the airborne evacuation of wounded Australian soldiers by Hercules transport from Vietnam.

The flights were weekly at the height of the war, usually from Vung Tau or Bien Hoa. According to Dr Marsh, over 2,500 Australians were evacuated in this way, many of them shockingly injured.

In New Zealand he is equally proud of his achievements in co-ordinating a then unique system of medical diagnosis to remote island communities off the New Zealand coast — islands such as Raoul, Chatham and Campbell.

"It was operated by wireless telegraph and later radio telephone," Dr Marsh said. "We received a medical history, particularly from team leaders of expedition groups, and then supplied a diagnosis.

"It worked, and even with the more serious cases — usually acci-



• Dr Marsh, left, welcomes the AFP's new Medical Officer, Dr Denys Butcher, with AFP Media Liaison Officer, Brian Minards, centre.

dent victims — it sufficed until the patients could be evacuated."

Dr Marsh's eight-year association with the AFP and 14-year association with Canberra also includes many recreational pursuits. One of the more time-consuming for some years was his association with the ACT Rugby Union.

Dr Denys Butcher is also a keen Rugby Union fan and a former referee. He is a doctor particularly keen on personal fitness and practises what he preaches.

At 58, he is still running in marathons and recently competed

in the Nike Avon marathon in Canberra. He runs each morning — some days up to 15 kilometres.

In a media interview, Dr Butcher said he was entering the job with no preconceived ideas about police officers. But he does have firm ideas on such things as stress.

"I don't accept stress," he said. "Stress is a creation of the individual."

He intends to begin an education program for AFP officers for fitness for the job, stress-relieving methods and relaxation techniques.

Anything is on the cards on Ray's day

When Detective Senior Sergeant Ray Campbell of Western Region, has a birthday, something seems to happen in the office to mark it.

Like last year, when Ray reached the magic half-century, thoughtful workmates brought in for him a wheelchair attached to a suspended plasma bottle.

And this year for his 51st birthday, Ray received a giant card bearing a verse that was definitely 'infra dig'.

It went:

*Across the meadow and over the hill,
Around the Narrows and past the mill,
running, running far and near,
getting rid of excess beer.
Sometimes lost in underpasses,
maybe someone needs glasses?
Makes it through the Causeway thicket,
back to work — Oh yes, the cricket.
Organising, listening, watching too!
So may sporty things to do.
Getting fit for next year's fun-run,
How does he get any bloody work done?*

*Swimming when it's in the season,
but we all know that there's a reason.
"I'm a Federal Sport" he claims,
that cry is now shot down in flames.*

*We all know he's as fit as this,
JUST SO HE CAN DRINK MORE P——!*

Despite attaining something approaching senior citizenship,

Ray, who went west from Sydney 14 years ago, is still very active and, despite the pranks, a popular member of the staff.

During winter he often goes on lunchtime jogs for five to ten kilometres along the banks of the nearby Swan River. In summer he regularly cruises up and down his 10m home pool, 100 lengths at a time.

He is also a social squash player, organises and plays for the WA AFP cricket club, and plays indoor cricket regularly.



• Detective Senior Sergeant Ray Campbell, of Perth, displays his birthday card, with a helping hand from clerical assistant Tina Tomeo, who did the artwork.