

STUDIES 'HELP GET JOB DONE'



Tertiary education isn't a necessity in Police work, but it is becoming much more important, according to an increasing number of AFP members.

Take Inspector Owen Heness, for instance. He is one of two people who received Graduate Diplomas at Canberra College of Advanced Education recently. The other is Greg Starkey, who works in the AFP's Scientific Research area.

Inspector Heness gained a Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Greg a Graduate Diploma in Computing Studies. Both consider further education a very big help in their work.

"While I don't believe tertiary education is the be all and end all of a person's existence, it does help as

• *Inspector Owen Heness, with his wife Diane.*

a supporting element in one's ability to get a job done," Inspector Heness said.

And he's had his share of jobs since he joined the Queensland Police in 1963. He spent 15 years in various capacities and for much of the time worked as a forensic scientist after gaining his Bachelor of Science degree at the end of seven years of part-time study at Queensland Institute of Technology.

He joined the former Commonwealth Police in 1978 as an Inspector.

He began his 8-unit Graduate Diploma course in Public Administration in 1981, four of the units being in administration, two in economics, and one each in administrative law and politics. He has now begun work towards gaining his Master's Degree in Public Administration.

His present job links him closely with administration. He's been transferred to the newly-created Human Resources Branch working with the Joint Management Review Implementation Office on aspects of the recent external review of the AFP.

One of his major hobbies is soccer refereeing and he holds a Grade 2 referee's ticket. He referees regularly in Canberra.

Greg Starkey, a Public Service member of the Office of the AFP, expects to find his studies of particular use in his present work in the Scientific Research Directorate with Dr. Malcolm Hall.

• *Left: Greg Starkey . . . a scientific use for the computer.*



Statistics Unit aids crime fight

A new Statistics Service Unit is being established in the AFP as part of a move to upgrade support services for the Force.

The unit, at present manned by Director Brian MacLachlan and Assistant Director Jennie Andersen, is to be based at Havelock House. Additional staff from the Drug Statistics area will join them in the next few weeks.

The unit will be fully computerised to enable it to provide a comprehensive service to all areas of the Force.

"One of our early tasks is to find out what the statistical information and assistance needs are," Brian MacLachlan said.

"Links are being established with all areas of policing so that,

through co-operation, a service can be provided which will both research and interpret material to augment all types of police work.

"It is all too easy for people to pull out and quote figures which detract from the work of the Police. But there is a much wider role for statistics in law enforcement with the opportunity they provide to seek out and pinpoint specific components which go to make up the whole picture of criminal activities," he said.

The new unit would be able to handle a wide spectrum of information collation, including such areas as crime, drugs, traffic, manpower and community welfare.

Brian MacLachlan, 42, has had considerable experience in breaking new ground in the area of

New 'training by computer' breakthrough

A computer system package which could greatly streamline the training of AFP members is being developed in Canberra.

The package, called 'Phoenix', makes it possible for instructors who are not programmers to compile their own courses at a computer terminal at the AFP Academy, Barton, and for students to take the courses at terminals already installed in AFP offices around the country.

The first Phoenix courses are expected to be available to members in the near future.

Phoenix was found by Barry Lowde, a Senior Programmer with the ADP Branch at Weston, during a continuing search for programs that can improve particular aspects of ADP operations.

He passed it on to the Police Systems Branch and to Training Division for evaluation. After a few months of trials, users became enthusiastic about its possibilities.

Senior Sergeant Lawrence Foster, of the Police Systems Branch, said the package was well suited to the AFP's existing computer system.

"With steady development, it

should be possible to deliver most of the theory component of our training through Phoenix, so that live-in courses can be intensively practical and considerably shorter than they are at present," Senior Sergeant Foster said.

The system allows for testing the student throughout the instruction to ensure successful learning. Participation in a practical, live-in course can follow mastery of the theory at the student's own pace — always a sound training practice.

Senior Sergeant Foster said the package had yet to be fully tested with the numbers of students that the AFP would have to reach on its widely-distributed network.

Like any complex program, problems were expected to be discovered and to need fixing as its use built up.

"Practical skills can't be taught on a computer terminal, except, of course, the skills of using the terminal itself," he said.

"Instructing through a computer is very different from doing it in a classroom, and is a skill in short supply in this country, let alone in the AFP. We'll be learning a great deal as we go."

Crossed world on 'friend's passport'

Good work by AFP members in Darwin recently ended a remarkable round-the-world trip on a false passport by a young American.

The man was wanted in the United States in connection with the theft of \$400 000 from automatic bank telling machines in Columbus, Ohio.

The saga of his flight from the US and purchase of a luxury ocean-going yacht makes startling reading.

The Officer-in-Charge Northern Region, Inspector John Deeks,

ble for the man's arrest. He said Sergeant Vern Chandler, Senior Constable Noel Simmonds and First Constable Horrie Kneebone had performed their duty by examining closely all travel documents the man presented when he entered Australia.

US police allege that he raided teller machines one night while employed as a technician to fix them and that he stole a friend's passport and gold airline pass, issued by an airline in thanks for flying so many hours with it. The pass allowed him to go straight through airport gates in the US.

The passport was not falsified — it just did not belong to the offender, who ultimately flew to New Zealand where he bought a car for touring and then bought a \$50 000 yacht and fitted it out at a cost of another \$50 000.

He cruised throughout Australia's near South Pacific island neighbours before heading for Darwin.

Inspector Deeks said police looked at all visiting yachts. When they got hold of the man's passport, straightforward checks revealed that the facts just did not add up.

Finally, after overseas checks, the man was arrested on his yacht as he was preparing to leave for other isolated spots in the Indonesian Islands.

Warrants were issued and the young American was placed in Darwin's Berrimah jail awaiting extradition.