



Platypus

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ACT SELF-RULE OPTIONS SURVEY RESULTS

AFP best kept in present form, say members

Keep the AFP intact. That was the majority vote of Canberra-based members surveyed earlier this year on possible alternatives for policing in the national capital.

The matter of what type of police force the ACT should have has arisen with the possible advent of self-government in the territory.

The official survey, conducted in March, covered ACT-based members and the small number of former ACT members who have transferred to the regions.

Each was sent a copy of a questionnaire detailing the three options which it is considered would be viable under any self-determination proposal. These are:

- a separate ACT Police Force, broadly similar in structure to the former ACT Police;
- contractual policing (possibly based on a Canadian model) operating in Canberra;
- AFP to continue in its present form.

The Commissioner, Major-General R.A. Grey, in a letter attached to the questionnaire, said: "There have been some media comments and speculation on the issue, some of which purport to represent the views of serving AFP members.

"I think it proper that those member who are serving, or who have

served in the ACT, should be able to express their preference."

Formal responses were received from all ranks — from Chief Superintendents to Constables.

Of the 634 copies of the questionnaire returned, 310 members voted for the AFP to continue in its present form and 134 for a system of contractual policing within the AFP; 190 members voted for a return to a separate ACT police force broadly similar to the structure of the former ACT police.

Service awards for 5



The Commissioner, Major-General R.A. Grey, presented several National Medals for 15 years' service and a 10-year Clasp at a recent special ceremony in Canberra. He is shown presenting Chief Inspector Dick Allatson with the National Medal. Others pictured are: from left, Senior Constable Peter Kingston (National Medal, in addition to the RAAF's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal); Senior Sergeant Ray Leister (National Medal); Station Sergeant Lionel Barrett (National Medal); and, far right, Assistant Commissioner John Reilly (Clasp).

New computer system boosts finance services for Force

Australian Federal Police Financial Resources Branch staff have begun using a revolutionary new computer system to assist in the management of

a wide range of finance operations.

The system, developed by an AFP team and the Canberra-based company Management Solutions Pty. Ltd., allows staff to process all financial transactions through computer terminals on their desks.

The system covers budgeting, purchasing, travel services, accounts processing, chart of accounts, and financial information and reporting.

Sub-systems which support various functions in the purchasing, finance and personnel areas are closely inter-related to allow information to flow between them.

The purchasing and travel sub-systems, for instance, generate accounting information which can be used directly by the accounts processing sub-system; the accounts processing sub-system in turn generates posting information

which is used by the financial information sub-system.

The system also has been designed to assist the implementation of program budgeting by the AFP.

Up-to-date expenditure reports will enable senior officers to control the financial affairs of their units more effectively.

The AFP has been commended by computer management for its foresight and initiative in commissioning the development of such a new and advanced computer concept.

Up to now, the AFP has used the Department of Finance computer systems which record accounting transactions after the event.

The new system goes well beyond this by allowing the accounting staff to check out and process all transactions as they actually occur.

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A MOTTO FOR THE AFP

Does the AFP want its own motto or not? Remember that question being put in a recent edition of 'Platypus'?

Members were asked to fill in a cut-out coupon and send it in. The response has been slow, but the replies that have come in so far all very definitely favour an AFP motto.

Suggestions range from some which are well known, to others which have involved some considerable thought by members.

Examples of suggestions received are:

- For the Good of the Public.
- God and My Right.
- Justice through Diligence.
- Let Justice be Done.
- Loyalty and Self-Discipline.

If you have a suggestion for a motto, send it in to The Editor, 'Platypus', PO Box 401, Canberra, ACT, 2601.