

# First unit of new Junior Police Rangers formed

Canberra Junior Police Rangers have become the path-finders for an organisation that is eventually expected to cover all States and Territories of Australia.

This follows the approval recently for Canberra Police and Citizens Youth Clubs to form the Rangers within their organisation.

The Junior Police Rangers is the idea of Constable John Reynolds, Secretary/

## Vice-Regal thanks

The Commissioner's Ball for 1983, held at Canberra's Lakeside Hotel, had an unexpected sequel for two very young Canberra people.

Before a crowd of nearly 500, Paula Roughley, six, and her cousin Michael Roughley, also six, of the ACT, had the task of presenting bouquets to Lady Stephen, wife of the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

Their poise made an impression on Lady Stephen.

Several days later they received a special letter from Government House.

It read:

'Dear Paula and Michael, I am writing to thank you both for the beautiful bunch of flowers you gave me last Friday evening at the ball. You both looked so charming I was sorry not to have talked to you for longer. The flowers have been lovely and looked so pretty on my dressing table. With many thanks, Sincerely, Valery Stephen.'

Superintendent of the Narrabundah Branch of the Youth Clubs.

The Narrabundah Rangers are the first to go on parade and include both boys and girls.

The objectives of the Junior Police Rangers are to teach and instruct the members, aged between 8 and 16 years in drill, basic First Aid, bushcraft (including map reading, survival, appreciation of landholders' property, erosion and pollution), handling and legal requirements of fire-arms, health and personal hygiene.

The Rangers organisation is being run along the lines of the Army Cadets, with the exception that there is no military-type tactics training.

A rank structure has been initiated within the group providing for promotion on merit and maturity. The most senior ranks at the clubs are held by the Police members, with the Rangers ranks being determined along the lines of the Australian Federal Police rank structure. The word Constable has been replaced with the title Ranger, with promotions to First Ranger, Senior Ranger.

Resources of the AFP are to be used, where possible, to provide expert instruction in certain fields, such as Rescue Squad duties.

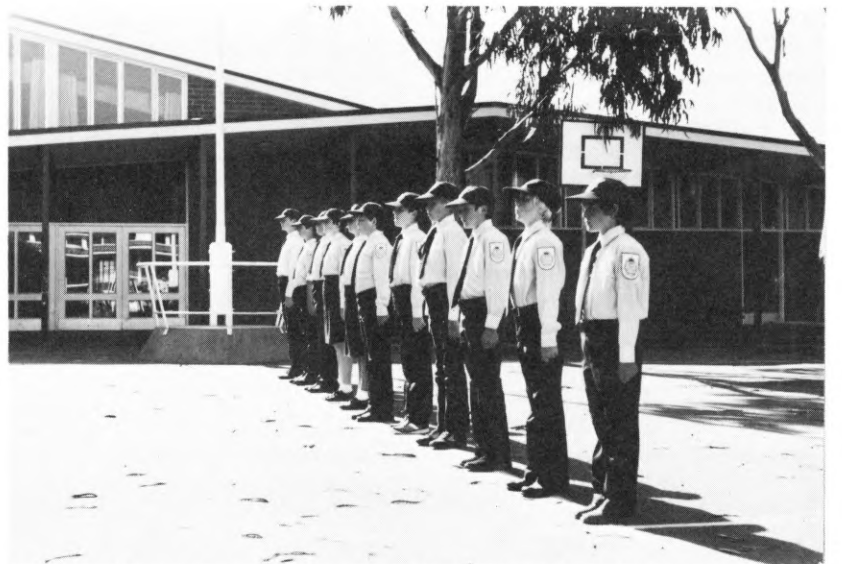
Both girls and boys take part in training exercises and camps. Adult women officers also attend as chaperons when required.

Competitions are arranged in bushcraft, First Aid, immediate response situations and individual planning and response.

It is expected that the Junior Police Rangers will prove very popular and will greatly benefit clubs participating.



Officer-in-charge of the Narrabundah Police and Citizens' Youth Club, Constable John Reynolds, adjusts the cap and has a last-minute word with two of the Junior Police Rangers before their first parade. (Picture by courtesy The Canberra Times).



Junior Police Rangers on parade. Uniforms are of a basic design, with club identification.



Bushcraft training for the young Rangers helps instil an appreciation of landholders' property and the problems of erosion and pollution.



Lady Stephen poses for a picture with Michael and Paula at the Commissioner's Ball.