

# TRAFFIC PC TO REGION OIC

CANBERRA was little more than an isolated village community when the A.C.T.'s Assistant Commissioner Val McConaghy began his association with his patch.

It was in 1939, in fact, the year of the first intake at Canberra High School.

"In those days you virtually knew everyone," said Val as he reminisced on 38 years of continuous police service at a ceremony during which he received his National Medal from the Commissioner. He already holds the Imperial Police Long Service Medal and the Queen's Police Medal for dedicated service.

The Officer-in-Charge of the AFP's Electronic Services Branch, Chief Inspector Brittliff, also received his National Medal at the same ceremony. Like Assistant Commissioner McConaghy, he too began his policing career in NSW.

Few know, however, that in the early days of Canberra, Assistant Commissioner McConaghy was first a public servant — albeit for only 12 months — before joining the New South Wales Police in July 1947 as a 19-year-old cadet.

"I was born in Victoria but the family came to Canberra in 1939 when dad began work as the engineer in charge of the Canberra Steam Laundry," he said. "Dad is still alive and, although 87, he still motors down from Maroochydore in Queensland once a year."

After completing his basic training in the NSW Police, Val first saw duty as a police motor-cyclist in various Sydney suburban locations, and remained in traffic for three years before joining the A.C.T. Police in 1950.

"My connections with Canberra go back a long, long way, he said. "In Canberra I continued in traffic, again with bikes, and in those days the Force



had old Harley Davidsons. Later we were equipped with Thunderbirds."

From then on, Assistant Commissioner McConaghy's career followed the traditional community policing stepping stones. After experience in traffic, he went into CID and suburban community policing. He gained considerable industrial relations experience as a member of the A.C.T. Police Association and was for nearly 25 years its one-man representative to the Police Arbitral Tribunal.

During that period he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study developments in traffic and community policing in various US and UK police forces.

"It's been a fascinating 38 years," he said, and then quipped: "But I'm not going to give you all of the reminiscences."

"They can come when I retire."

*Assistant Commissioner McConaghy, left, and Chief Inspector Brittliff, pictured after the presentation of their National Medals by the Commissioner.*

Peter Brittliff's NSW policing career began only five years after Val's — in 1952 — and stretched over 16 years with service in various types of policing.

Initially Peter was in general duties at Parramatta, later with Sydney's Vice Squad, and, for a time, running the then one-man station at Castle Hill.

He then moved to the NSW Police Force's radio centre, where he remained for some time. He left policing to become the Chief Communications Officer for the NSW State Emergency Services.

In 1975 he moved back into policing with the Commonwealth Police.

"It's taken 24 years to get the National Medal," he joked. "I'll get the clasp in 1986."



**S**ERGEANT Robert Lee, of Southern Region (left), displays his National Medal, presented after 16 years' service with both the Commonwealth Police and the AFP.

Bob joined the Commonwealth force in Melbourne in 1968, working in uniform at Melbourne Airport until 1970 when he transferred to Melbourne Airport CIB. He was designated a Detective in 1977 and by 1979 had worked in various areas including the Cheque Squad, Observation Squad, and the Meat Inquiry Task Force.

In 1983 he became Sergeant-in-charge of the Medifraud Squad. He is presently Team Sergeant in the Major Crime Squad.



# MEDAL AWARDS FOR SERVICE



*Eastern Region Assistant Commissioner Ray McCabe presented National Medals to a number of officers at a combined ceremony recently. Receiving their awards are, from left, Detective Senior Sergeant Garry Ward, and Detective Senior Sergeant Bruce Provost.*



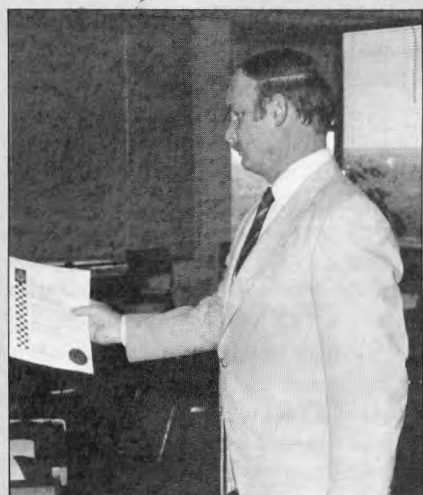
*Sergeant Geoff Atfield*



*Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Cramp*



*Senior Constable John Evans*



*Receiving their Commissions of Appointment at the same ceremony were, from left, Detective Inspector Phillip Lawrence, Detective Inspector Bruce Hagner and Detective Inspector Bill Harrigan.*