



Platypus — how you too can contribute

Don't forget we need to hear from you on any topic you think would be of interest to AFP members.

Your contacts for each of the regions are:

Eastern Region: Senior Constable Jim Carter. Telephone: (02) 690 8823

Southern Region: Constable Gary Knack. Telephone: (03) 654 2744

Northern Region: First Constable Ray Bedford. Telephone: (07) 227 0777

Central Region: Sergeant Paul Adey. Telephone: (08) 274 8839

Western Region: Sergeant Elizabeth Harrison. Telephone: (09) 325 3611

Tasmania: Sergeant John Jennings. Telephone: (002) 44 6206
Northern Territory: Steve Coates. Telephone: (089) 81 3370.

In Canberra members can ring 68 3509.

And for those receiving 'Platypus' at home, if the copy is going to the wrong address please let us know immediately by writing to:

The Editor
'Platypus'
GPO Box 401
CANBERRA 2601

LETTERS

Commissioner Grey

The Committee of Management, members and disabled riders of Pegasus would like you to know how very grateful we all are for the outstanding efforts of Senior Constable Daryl Kildey and his Committee in raising \$3,040 for us through the Police Charity Golf Day and Associated activities.

The kindness and efficiency Pegasus has benefited from deserve to be known as widely as possible. We hope that our thanks to the members of the Federal Police who made the Charity Day such a resounding success will be recorded.

(Prof.) C.M. Williams

President Pegasus

Riding for The Disabled of ACT (Inc)

Hawker, ACT

THANKS

Sir,

I seek some space in 'Platypus' to record my thanks to the many friends, new and old, who combined together to make my recent retirement from the AFP as painless as possible.

During my last weeks in the 'job' I had immense pleasure in serving on the Central Promotion Committee and, in excellent company, visited our Brisbane and Melbourne Regional Headquarters where I was able to say farewell to many old friends, always in appropriate surroundings. I then served in Canberra for three weeks, again renewing old friendships or making new friends.

Apart from the social side of my travels, I saw a great deal of the work of the Force and the men and women carrying out that work. I can only say that I was greatly impressed wherever I went.

May I wish all members of AFP good health and happiness in the future. I shall always be proud of my 35½ years in the

police service, especially nearly six years in the Australian Federal Police.

John B. Burrows,
Allambie Heights

LANGUAGE

Sir

I draw your attention to what I feel are inaccuracies in the article "Assignment Bangkok" in the August edition of *Platypus*. I am studying the third year unit of Thai language at the Australian National University and plan to do Honours units in Thai in 1986. I have had a working knowledge of the language for the past 14 years, including three spent in Thailand.

The article says 'The Thai language contains little formal grammar. . .' Thai grammar is difficult, complicated and often strictly structured in the advanced stages. I have yet to meet a Thai person who thinks that Thai grammar is easy.

The article also says 'Sufficient knowledge of the alphabet can easily be acquired to read public signs and notices, and to keep in touch with the extensive vernacular press.' This may be true of less complicated notices, eg 'Ladies', 'Gents', 'Stop', 'Reduce Speed'. However, there are various levels of formality in both written and spoken Thai and this is evident even in the most routine public notices. A basic vocabulary knowledge does not ensure that all such notices can be read.

Thai, like Chinese, is a tonal language. This means that a word or syllable may have two or more distinct and quite unrelated meanings, depending on the tone in which it is pronounced. These differences are indicated in the written form by the use of tone marks coupled with a rather complicated set of rules.

Any given tone mark does not indicate only one possible tone. To say it is easy to acquire sufficient knowledge of the language to be able to read Thai language newspapers is both inaccurate and naive.

Rod Duncan
Coastal Protection Unit

PERSONALLY, I THINK THE NEW I.D. PHOTOGRAPHS ARE EXCELLENT!!



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