

RETIREMENTS



• In one of his last presentation duties Superintendent Ken Thompson (uniform) presented National Medals to Senior Constables Eric Temme (L) and Eddie Porter (R). He also made a special presentation of the National Medal and Certificate of Service to Craig Dickson, aged 9, son of the late Detective Senior Constable George Dickson.

SUPERINTENDENT Ken Thompson has been involved in some big fraud cases, a number of murders and a host of other crimes.

But probably the one thing in his career that has given him most satisfaction was his appointment to Adelaide as Commander Central Region.

"It was like coming home again," he said.

Ken retires in January after 34 years in policing, first as a South Australia Police member and now as a senior AFP Commander.

He's pleased with the way Central Region has progressed.

"It has become a force in Federal policing," he said. "It is very settled and is a stable link in the AFP chain of operations."

"There is a sense of pride coming into the AFP now and that's a very good thing. It's taken time, but it's here. And nowhere is it more evident than in Central Region."

Ken Thompson has spent a lot of time in cultivating this pride and in building morale among his men.

"I believe in encouraging what I call the middle-of-the-road people to ask themselves what they can achieve," he said. "These people are the keystone to the whole organisation. They are the ones with the ability to analyse and to adjust to the changes that arise so frequently in the world of policing."

"They must be allowed the freedom to fulfil their capabilities and must not be tied down," he said.

Ken has followed this philosophy in his own career. He joined the South Australia Police in 1952 and four years later transferred to the CIB. He gained extensive experience in all areas of criminal policing during the next 18 years, particularly in fraud and homicide.

In 1974 he decided he needed a change and joined the Commonwealth Police in Adelaide. During his service in the Commonwealth force and the AFP, he

has specialised in the investigative area.

He was promoted to Superintendent, Commander Central Region in 1984.

This year he was rewarded for his police work by being awarded the Australian Police Medal.

YEARS of working in Central Registry must provide the opportunity to get to know plenty of people in the job.

Marie Fuller certainly does. And there can't be many in the job who don't know her.

Marie retired last month after 16 years with the AFP and A.C.T. policing — most of it in Registry, located first at City Station and in the past couple of years at Havelock House.

"I enjoyed the work very much, even though it was hectic at times," Marie said. "It's only in the past year or so that staff numbers have been anything like equal to the demands placed on Registry resources."

When Marie and her small band moved to Havelock House it was a case

of work all hours to get things in order. And it was only thanks to hard work and her resourcefulness that Central Registry was up and running again in a matter of days.

Managing is something Marie knows quite a lot about. She helped manage a family business before she joined the Public Service in 1970.

"We had a growing family and I had to go back to full time work," she said. "I started as a Clerical Assistant 2 and found it a very relaxed atmosphere after private enterprise."

She spent five years in that job before moving to the Education Department for six months. She returned to the A.C.T. Police to become OIC of the Gun Licensing Unit.

"Working in Gun Licensing was an enlightening experience," she said. "I met a wide range of members of the A.C.T. public and thoroughly enjoyed my five years in that job."

Her links with the A.C.T. go back a long way.

"My father was born at Gundaroo and in his younger days he often used to go to Blundell's Cottage, now situated on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, for holidays," she said.

"I have made a lot of good friends in that time," she said. "And I'm going to miss them."

But Marie also has a piece of sound philosophy for those of us left to work on.

"Work hard and only as long as you have to," she said. "There's a lot more to life than just working."

And that from someone who only the day before her retirement celebrated with her husband their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.



• Mrs Marie Fuller and friends at her retirement luncheon.