

# THE SPORTING LIFE

**P**OLICE athletes from Australia and New Zealand will be gathering early next year in the fair city of Wanganui on New Zealand's North Island for their biennial games.

One of the driving forces behind organising the Australian contingent is Detective Senior Sergeant Ken Hunt from the Southern Region Crime Squad based in Melbourne.

'About 30 Australian Federal Police are going, including a girls' basketball team from the AFP in Canberra and a girls' netball team and a soccer team from the AFP in Sydney,' he said.

'And there's still time for other sportsmen and women to join in'.

The games, to be held in Wanganui from March 17-20, are the work of the Australian-New Zealand Police Games Federation which was formed in 1984.

The various forces in the two countries take turns to host the games every two years.

The Federation held its annual general meeting in New Zealand last June and since then Wanganui has offered the New Zealand force what Ken says is an 'excellent holiday package' at a cost of about \$800 ex-Sydney.

The contingent from Australia is not as big as Ken and the other Australian tour leaders would like, but he says the games in 1990 are to be held in South Australia and big efforts will be made to boost the Australian participation. All police forces in Australia and New Zealand will be represented.

The sports available in the Australian-New Zealand police games include track and field, badminton, basketball, canoeing, cycling, golf, indoor cricket, netball, police dog handling, shooting and swimming.

'There's even a darts competition,' Ken said, 'and the players always insist on a wet canteen.'

## Olympics

In other developments, the International Law Enforcement Olympics will be held in Sydney in October 1988 — the first time the events have been held outside the U.S.

'It's a tribute to the Australian bicentenary,' Ken said.

'Between three and four thousand police from all over the world are expected to attend.'

'Most of them will be from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and Europe.'

'We're looking for about 100 AFP members to form our team for the Olympics,' Ken said.

And back on the federal patch, efforts are being made to form an AFP National Sports Federation.

'We are looking at holding the AFP games next year in Melbourne, probably in September. I expect the games to go annual and the steering committee is lobbying AFP chiefs for support,' Ken said.

A network of contacts is being built up for members of the AFP wishing to join in police sport.

So far the contacts are Ken Hunt in Melbourne (03 6542744), John Barnes in Melbourne (03 3030402); Roy Yeeles, Canberra (062 757282); Steve MacTackett in Sydney (02 2115166) and Glenda Lomas in the Northern Territory (089 845288).

