

AFP WILL MEET THE CHALLENGE

by Philip Castle



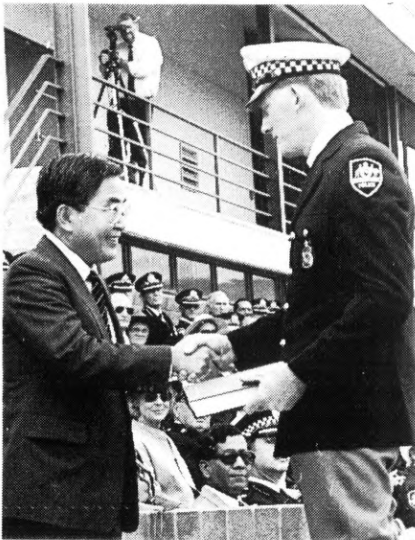
● Constable Scott Beynon.

THE AFP provided the modern police officer with one of the most challenging, exciting and investigative jobs in Australia, the then Special Minister for State, Mr Mick Young, told the officers at last year's annual passing-out parade.

On 7 November at the training college at Weston Mr Young told almost 100 police trainees, including two graduating

classes, that the AFP was still a young force since its formation in 1979 and it had taken on an enormous task with exceptional success.

Australians were beginning to realise the threat to their society of organised crime, drug trafficking and fraud. "The road ahead for the AFP will not be



● Korea Embassy Minister, Mr Young-Shik Song presents Constable Rob Anderson with his award achieved in his motorcycle course.



● The then Special Minister of State, the Hon. Mick Young, accompanied by Inspector Bill Kirk (left), and Commissioner Ronald Grey, inspect the parade.



● Mrs Marjorie Mitchell and her family with the late Senior Sergeant Mitchell's long service medal.



● Right on to a chequered career! Photos courtesy Michael Porter of The Canberra Times.

smooth", he said. "But I believe you will meet the challenge".

Mr Young said the demise of the self-government proposals for the ACT meant that the combined future of the AFP's community and national policing was secure. He said later that "an awful strain would have been placed on resources" if the AFP had been split into an autonomous ACT force and a separate national force. The interests of both the ACT and Australia were best served with a combined force.

The traditional skills of the investigator were still crucial to all its work and these were being advanced by the increasing use of technology.

The police trainees and graduates showed their traditional marching skills to the music provided by the band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and were reviewed by Mr Young and Commissioner Ronald Grey.

For Constable Lynnette Johnson of Woy Woy and now of Eastern Region it was a memorable day. She had flown in from Sydney to receive her special reward as "Recruit of the Year" presented by the Pakistan Charge d'Affaires, Mr Javed Iqbal on behalf of the Ambassador. She had still been able to obtain top credits even though her father died during her final recruit training examinations. Her only regret was that she wished her father could have been there.

Her award was an inaugural one, as was the Korean Prime Minister's trophy for the highest assessment of a motor cycle (pursuit) training course which was presented by Korean Embassy Minister, Mr Young-Shik Song to Constable Rob Anderson.

Dux

The award for dux of the graduating classes went to Constable Scott Beynon of Tamworth who was posted to the ACT City Station. He is a maths graduate from the University of New England. He said he had been bored before joining the AFP and ultimately hoped to go into investigative work. First he wanted to get some practical on-the-road experience though, he said.

Long Service

For Mrs Majorie Mitchell, of Curtin, it was a sad presentation of her late husband's national long service medal by Mr Young. Her husband, Senior Sergeant Frederick Mitchell, first joined the Commonwealth Police Force in 1963 and most recently served with the AFP in its special intelligence unit. He died of an illness in October 1985. His medal was received by Mrs Mitchell and her three children, Simon, 17, Kara, 13, and Scott, 11.

Station Sergeant Ray Fitzpatrick of the City Station was awarded the National Medal. He joined the Commonwealth Police in 1970 and has served overseas and at the training college.



• Constable Lyn Johnson receives her award from the Pakistan Charge d'Affaires, Mr Javed Iqbal.

CONSTABLE JOHNSON IS

by Stephan Simpson

TOPS!

AS the AFP's "Recruit of the Year" for 1986, Constable Lyn Johnson could perhaps be forgiven for being a bit brash. After all, she topped seven classes of trainee recruits to receive the award. She is, however, quite unassuming.

Constable Johnson, aged 22, from Sydney, received the award at the AFP's annual passing out parade at the training college at Weston, ACT, in November last year. The award is a 30-cm high silver mounted lancer, and it sits in a glass case in the foyer of Barton College. She received also a law book as part of the prize.

'I didn't get any money though', Lyn joked to me. 'I could have done with some at the time'.

That time was one of mixed emotions for Lyn. Her father had died during her final examinations for her recruit training.

Lyn applied to join the AFP in 1983. At the time she worked as a clerk in the NSW Law Courts processing bail applications. As she put it; 'I saw the Police in action and I thought I preferred to be on that side of things. The Federal Police appeared to offer more opportunities for interesting work so I applied'. Lyn started training in April 1985 as one of approximately 175 trainee recruits who faced the three month introductory training course in Canberra. She completed her training in March 1986.

According to Lyn she enjoyed almost all her training. She found that her fellow recruits at Barton College were a fairly

social lot. The most interesting part of the whole course for her was the six months on-the-job training in Sydney where she spent six weeks in each of the Eastern Region Branches. As a recruit observer she was given some absorbing work right from the start. She feels that the training course prepared her well for most situations she has since had to face on the job.

Lyn has been working in the Major Crime Squad in the CIB, Sydney for the past three months. She is not sure why but she finds fraud work to be of most interest to her at present, and has just completed a brief on Social Security Department fraud involving a six figure sum of money.

The award has had little effect on Lyn's work environment. 'There has been no pressure from the people I work with', she said. 'A lot of people don't know about it. I don't feel that I have to live up to the award, but I am pleased I've won it. It made my Mum very happy' she said.

Lyn doesn't feel that the award will have any influence over her career development either, as she thinks that people forget such things fairly quickly. The impression Lyn gives is that this is how she would prefer it anyway. Not that she lacks ambition. Obviously anyone who can top the recruit year is driven by more than intelligence alone but you wouldn't gather this by talking to her. You would say she was down to earth.

Enough of Constable Johnson; Lyn Johnson the person is active socially and on the sports field. She plays basketball in the AFP women's team and believes in making friends outside the service as well as maintaining her friendships inside.

Good luck Lyn, you are a credit to the Australian Federal Police.