

MOUNTIES AT EXPO



RCMP Band members with Ray Bedford (centre) and the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Police, Mr Ron Redmond.

by Senior Constable Ray Bedford

*"There's something about Canada,
something about Canada, something
about Canada so fine, Canada O
Canada you're mine"*

And so begins the song that has enthralled and excited the thousands of visitors to the Canadian Pavilion at World Expo 88.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band was in Australia as part of the Canadian Government's Bicentennial gift. Their Australian tour encompassed the eastern seaboard with concerts in Melbourne, Sydney, country New South

Wales and as far afield as Darwin. The band's memorable engagement at World Expo 88 was for Canada Week from June 30.

I met the band at Brisbane Airport where briefings were given on Australian Federal Police and Queensland Police assistance to the contingent during the stay. Sergeant Drum Hudson, the Tour Manager, provided the operational orders for their engagement at Expo where Inspector Charlie Hendricks, one of the band's most talented musicians as well as its Director of Music, was heard to say, "Guys, this is where we work and earn our paycheck!" This they did with such professionalism, flair and superb musical genius that everyone fortunate enough to witness their performances will never forget them.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band musicians are excellent ambassadors for their country and represent a law enforcement agency steeped in tradition. Its history is very much the history of Canada. The R.C.M.P. traces its roots back to 1873 when the North West Mounted Police was organised and the first 300 men in scarlet tunics marched into Canada's frontier west the following year. There they faced the Indians, demoralized by whisky supplied by white traders and their way of life threatened by white hunting pressure on buffalo herds. By building forts and sending out horseback patrols, this new para-military police force put an end to the whisky trade and established law and order in advance of white settlement.

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The success of the North West Mounted Police on the western frontier led to its despatch to the Yukon during the Gold Rush and gradually throughout the Arctic. In 1904, in recognition of its many services, the force was awarded the honour of the title 'Royal' by King Edward the Sixth, an honour justly earned and proudly worn. After World War I, the Mounted Police absorbed the Dominion Police, which carried out federal policing duties in Eastern Canada, and on February 1, 1920, became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The R.C.M.P. Band originated as a part-time band in 1876 at Swan River, Manitoba. The first official band was established in 1938 and the 45 piece orchestra made its debut in Regina in the spring of 1939. The band continued as a part time band until 1958 when it became a full time unit stationed at HQ Ottawa, its present home.

"The major objective of the R.C.M.P. Band," said Staff Sergeant Major Dan Carroll, "is to provide a public relations and ceremonial service for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and for Canada. We work closely with operational divisions to promote the force's crime prevention and police community relations programmes, emphasising the police officers' continuing presence and efforts in the avenues they serve".

Staff Sergeant Carroll, veteran musician and Band Administrator, joined the force at Regina as a trumpeter and was appointed the Band Administrator in 1971. Dan is the only Staff Sergeant Major in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is a rank he holds with humility, but with obvious pride in the achievement. He retires shortly and the rank of Staff Sergeant Major will go with him.

My attachment with the band was initially for two days, but such was the friendships and the excitement, and the enjoyment of a never to be repeated event, that I remained with the band for all its stay. Eighteen hour days were commonplace, but enjoyable nonetheless.

Reception

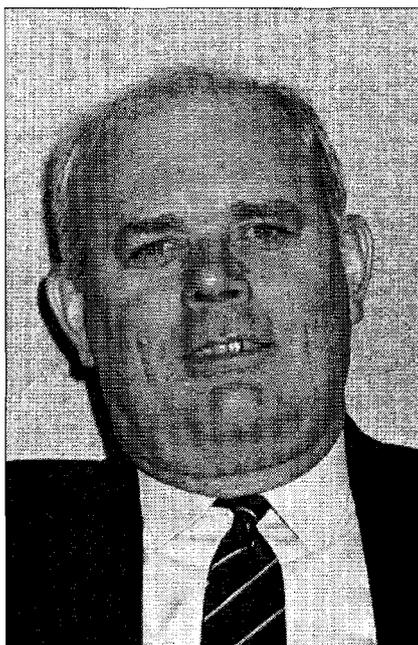
The Australian Police Historical Society hosted an official reception for the R.C.M.P. on July 2. Guests included the Queensland Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Ron Redmond; Chief Superintendent Bob Gillespie, Commander Northern Region AFP; staff of the Canadian Pavilion; members of the Australian Federal Police and Queensland Police Departments; staff of the World Expo 88 Authority, and staff of the various Australian Pavilions at Expo.

Senior Sergeant Bill Humphris of the AFP Northern Region, a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was obviously proud of his former ties. Bill told many accounts of his service with the R.C.M.P. when his only mode of transport was a horse or a dog sled. "The memories of tonight," Bill said, "will remain with me forever. I am very proud to have served in one of the finest police forces in the world."

"In the century that has made Canada a great nation, the symbol of nationhood that has endured and flourished, in Canada and abroad — is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. What other nation has the maturity to have, as its best known emblem, its police force".

*Mr Patrick Reid
Commissioner-General
Expo 86
Vancouver, Canada*

SENIOR PROMOTIONS



Ass. Comm. Peter Dawson



Ass. Comm. Walter Williams

Commissioner McAulay recently announced the promotions of Chief Superintendent Peter Dawson, 50, to Assistant Commissioner Personnel and Training and Chief Superintendent Walter Williams, 52, to Assistant Commissioner Services Department.

Assistant Commissioner Dawson began his police career with the ACT Police in 1959 and worked in the Criminal Investigation Branch, General Duties and Training. In 1976 he was the Inspector in charge of Belconnen Station and in 1977 became the OIC of the CIB. At the formation of the AFP in 1979 he was a Chief Superintendent and with the AFP he has worked in Training, Eastern Region, Internal Investigations Division and as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner. His most recent appointment has been as the Commander, Training Div-

ision. He holds the Australian Police Medal and in 1984 attended the Police Staff College at Bramshill, England.

Assistant Commissioner Williams began his police career in 1957 with the Victoria Police. He transferred to the Commonwealth Police Force as an Inspector in 1970 where he worked in the intelligence area and pioneered the introduction of computers which he followed up with their extended use in the AFP. He was the Commander of the AFP contingent to Cyprus in 1985-86, then Commander of Intelligence and Drug Operations and Commander of the International Division until his latest appointment. He holds the Queen's Police Medal and a Bachelor of Arts and a graduate Diploma in Criminology from Melbourne University.

