

# IN MEMORIUM

Joan Thurbon, nee Colman, 69, passed away at the Woden Valley Hospital on 5 November after a short illness. She has had a long association with the development of Canberra, especially with police administration and law enforcement.

Joan's first employment was on the staff of radio station 2CA, about 1937. At that time her Father, the late Eric Colman, was a radio announcer with 2CA. Eric was a brother of the well known actor Ronald Colman. In his latter years Eric was identified with direct broadcasts of the proceedings in Parliament.

In 1938, at the age of twenty Joan was privileged to work in the office of Lieutenant-Colonel H.E. Jones, Director of the Commonwealth Investigation Service, first Chief Officer of the then Federal Capital Territory Police Force and head of the Commonwealth Peace Officer Force. In 1943, when Inspector George Smith was appointed as Deputy Chief Officer of Police and took over administration of the Police with its Headquarters above the old Hotel Acton, Joan moved from Barton to Acton as

Inspector Smith's secretary. She moved to the Jolimont buildings complex about a year later to work for the newly appointed ACT Police Commissioner Robert Reid, followed by Commissioner Richards and Commissioner Powley.

About 1949 Joan was sworn in as a member of the Police Force. While primarily involved in secretarial work, the broader role included support in criminal investigations and emergency situations. Her typing skill, cheerful personality, dedication and loyalty are affectionately recalled by her former superiors and fellow workers.

Appropriately Joan married Sergeant Percy Thurbon in 1976 and to the time of his death in 1987 they lived in Turner. With her husband they maintained an interest in the police and the rapid changes which have taken place in recent years. They were always welcomed at social gatherings in which the police participated.

Joan had the respect and affection of her former colleagues and her long time friends and associates. She is survived by her sister Pat of Melbourne.

# VALE JACK RUSSELL

**Colleagues and friends mourn the death of Senior Constable John (Jack) Edmund Russell (retired) in Victoria from a heart attack on May 28. He was 59.**

Jack joined the Commonwealth Police in 1961 and retired in 1984 after 23 years' service.

He was one of the most popular members of Southern Region having, prior to the advent of the Welfare Branch, fulfilled the role of unofficial advisor to both senior and junior members.

He served mainly in the General Uniform Branch in Victoria, first as Regional Clerk, and in later years as Quartermaster, a position he held until his retirement.

After retiring Jack and his wife, Valma, sold their home in Pascoe Vale and moved to Eildon so that he could fulfill his ambition of getting back to the bush. At Eildon he could fish and trap rabbits whenever the whim took him (which was regularly).

More than 30 serving and retired members attended his funeral at Eildon.

## TRIBUTE TO MAX PAHL

**SENIOR Constable Maxwell Wilson Pahl, of Special Projects, Canberra, died at the age of 55 on September 12 while on recreational leave in South Australia.**

Max, who was born in Hopetown, Victoria, was a farmer's son and worked the land until 1972 when he joined the Commonwealth Police. He served in the ACT where he earned the respect of all members with whom he came in contact.

With the inception of the AFP Max served four years at the AFP College, Barton, where he became well known to hundreds of students.

While there he gained the respect of both students and staff as a caring, dedicated and obliging person on whom one could call for assistance and advice.

Max leaves a wife, June, and three daughters, Judy, Debbie and Wendy. He was the fond father-in-law of Mark, Ken and Colin. "Poppy" will be sadly missed by his eight grandchildren.

Max was a dignified, quiet person with a deep consideration for other people. He also had a real pride in, and dedication to, his position as a police officer.

Max will be missed not only by his relatives but by many, many friends in the AFP. It was a pleasure and an honour to know you Max.

Rest in Peace.

A FRIEND

Sir,

My family and I wish to extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Australian Federal Police for their kind expressions of sympathy and floral tributes at the sudden loss of our beloved Max. Special thanks to Angela Brown, Edgar Rolfe, members of Special Projects and International Division.

Max was very proud to be a member of the AFP and lived for his family and his work. In his 16½ years with the Force he made many friends who have given us so much support at this sad time.

Thank you again sincerely,  
June Pahl



*The late Sen. Const. Max Pahl.*