

which drinking is out of place.'

Chief Inspector Taylor said that not being able to move people along often frustrated his officers when gangs of young people in public places annoyed others but stopped short of the definition of offensive behaviour.

'We often know a group can be planning trouble but we don't have the power to move them on. In many cases if we did have that power we could stop trouble before it begins.'

Public Support

Chief Inspector Taylor said it was important for policing to have public support.

'The people must be prepared to report crime to the police. Witnesses must be prepared to go to court to give effective evidence against trouble-makers. The public on its part must report incidents and the police must respond quickly.'

On police response, Chief Inspector Taylor said one of his objectives was to have officers out on the road more often.

'My men spend 20 percent of each shift in the station doing administrative and typing work, which is the general average in the AFP. Perhaps this could be lessened.

'Their place is out on the streets as far as is practically possible to ensure the fastest possible response time. The new computer system being introduced by the AFP will be a great help. It will cut down on the duplication of reports.'

'The streamlining of the crime reporting system clearly demonstrates that the Information Systems and Scientific Services Division has recognised the deficiencies in the computer area.

'I'm very pleased that the use of computers is moving more into the area of the working police,' he said.

(The latest developments will provide immediate access to information; for example state vehicle registrations, driver's licence particulars or criminal details. The immediate access could be vital to police in the field because it would warn them about whether a subject could be armed or dangerous. The AFP's computer developments are featured in this issue of 'Platypus')

Chief Inspector Taylor had one final piece of advice for working police in the ACT: 'Never think investigating a case of a stolen bicycle and similar small crimes against children is not important police work. I've known of cases where a kid has saved for years to buy himself a bike. When you recover it for him, that kid will love the police for ever more!'

A POLICE FAMILY MOURNS

Sir,

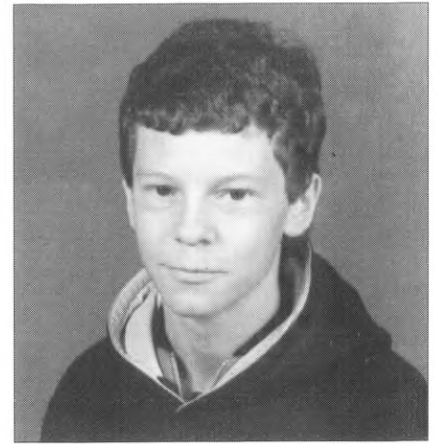
On behalf of Rita, Rob, Craig and myself I would like to thank all members of the AFP and support sections for the support we have received since our 16 year old son, Grant Andrew Cameron, was allegedly punched and kicked to death at the Duffy Primary School fete on Saturday, October 31, last year.

It has been a very traumatic period for us — as it would be for any family that lost a loved one under any circumstances — but it has been especially hard for us due to the circumstances under which Grant died.

I have had considerable trouble trying to make up my mind whether I wanted to be a police officer any more because I had some fears that I may become too emotionally involved if I were faced with a situation similar to the one under which Grant died; that I might do the wrong thing either by myself or by the Police Force and that is the last thing I would want.

I returned to work on January 4 and I am going to give it a go.

A special thank you to the following people: The previous Commissioner, Mr Grey, Assistant Commissioner (ACT Region) Val McConaghy, for their support and assistance during the period that I made several press statements and



Grant Cameron

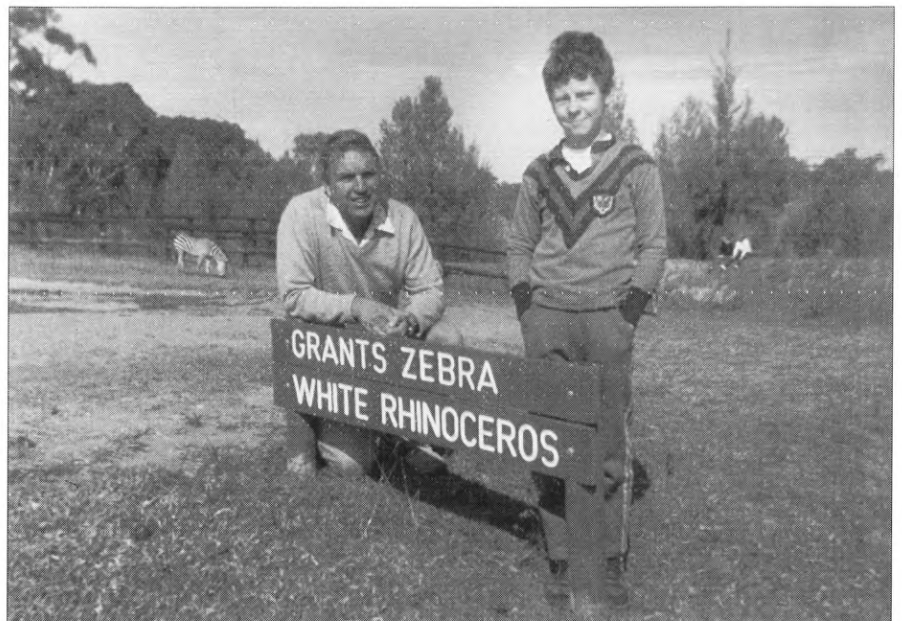
appeared on TV; Detective Sergeant John Lawler (Woden CIB, ACT) for his kindness and thoughtfulness; Sergeant Angela Brown (Welfare Officer) for her help and for just being a good friend to Rita and I during this period. Thanks Angie; Garry Fulton from the AFP Association for support and assistance and Dr Don Smyth for his assistance and kindness.

The article in the November 'Platypus' entitled 'Violence Growing' quoting Dr Smyth was written before Grant was killed and his death has certainly proved Dr Smyth right.

Thanks for your support and assistance 'Doc' and I wish you a long and happy retirement.

I also want to thank Chief Inspector Graham Taylor (OIC Woden, ACT) and workmates at Woden and all the other people who attended Grant's funeral at Cowra, sent flowers, cards, made telephone calls and visited us. Thank you. You will never know how your support has helped us.

Senior Constable Bob Cameron.



Sen. Const. Bob Cameron with Grant.