

# SINGAPORE VISITOR



*Det. First Const. Dixon and Ass. Supt. Yang with their certificates from Mitchell College*

**A**N officer from the Singapore Police will be making recommendations on computer equipment for his force after visiting the AFP.

'We don't have a criminal intelligence computer system such as INTEL 2,' Assistant Superintendent Chor Khee Yang said.

'We are working on getting one and I have been most impressed by the very sophisticated and powerful computer system operated by the AFP.'

Assistant Superintendent Yang, 27, heads a branch of the Commercial Crime Division of his force's Criminal Investigation Department.

He is the first member of the Singapore Police to visit the AFP in Canberra.

Mr Yang, an honours graduate in accountancy from the National University of Singapore, joined the Singapore Police in July 1984 and attended a nine month course at the Singapore Police Academy for officer cadets.

'Our recruiting system is different from that of the AFP in that there is direct entry for graduates to senior rank and a separate entry for school leavers,' Mr Yang said.

'Graduates generally enter the force as probationary inspectors but some graduates with a good honours degree are taken on as probationary superintendents.'

Singapore has 6,000 regular police for

the island state's 2.6 million population.

Mr Yang returned to Singapore early last month and during his five week visit to Australia he worked with AFP officers in the ACT and Eastern Regions.

He also attended a two week corporate crime investigation course at the Mitchell College of Advanced Education in Bathurst. An officer from the National Criminal Investigation Branch, Detective First Constable Leigh Dixon, also attended the course which was run by the Corporate Affairs Commission of New South Wales.

'The course was excellent and it related directly to my area of work,' Mr Yang said.

'There were 29 officers on the course from Hong Kong, New Zealand and Malaysia as well as Australia.

'I established contacts there which will be very good for my work in the future. In fact, I'd say that the contacts I made were one of the major benefits of the course.'

Mr Yang also pointed out that his visit to Australia was part of the valuable mutual co-operation between his force and the AFP.

'We have a very good relationship with the AFP's liaison officers in Singapore.

'I would like to see more exchanges because they improve understanding and promote greater co-operation.

'There is a lot we can learn from each other,' he said.

**'T**RAINING such as the corporate crime investigation course indicates how big the advance has been in the methods we use in this area,' Detective First Constable Leigh Dixon (National Criminal Investigation Bureau) told 'Platypus'.

'The importance of the area was indicated by the fact that the organisers brought in the man who was in charge of the recent investigation into the insider trading scandal on Wall Street, Mr Bill McLucas, the Associate Director of the Division of Enforcement of the US Securities and Exchange Commission,' he said.

'Frauds can be complicated and involve protracted investigations into complex and sophisticated corporate structures.

'We may start a search for laundered money in three companies and end up looking at 150 companies once we've chased that money through the corporate structure.'

Mr Dixon, an AFP member for five years, is a former member of the ACT Fraud Squad and holds public sector accountant qualifications.

He said one of the more important aspects of such courses was the contact police made with members of other law enforcement agencies.

'Those agencies often possess more powers than the AFP and contacts such as those made at Bathurst are most useful when joint task forces are set up,' he said.

**D**EPUTY Commissioner (Operations) Roy Farmer has decided to include discussions with wives and husbands as part of the interview process when interviewing AFP officers for overseas posts.

Mr Farmer made the decision after a trip to Hong Kong in November for the Third International Anti-Corruption Conference.

Australia has been invited to host the fourth international Anti-Corruption Conference which is expected to be held next year.

While overseas for the November conference, Mr Farmer visited liaison officers and their families in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and Manila as part of the trip.

'The role played by the spouses of L.O.'s is not as well recognised as it should be,' Mr Farmer said.

'There is a significant imposition on the family life of an L.O. When there are visiting dignitaries an L.O. can be tied up for 16 to 18 hours a day.'

He said that the availability of servants in South East Asian posts could pose a problem for some Australian families, as could the different cultures and food.

'Australians are not used to having servants. It takes some of them quite a while to realise they can't go to the kitchen to get a glass of water, for example, because there is a maid to do it.

'And they have to adjust to not having servants when they return to Australia.

'For a spouse, having to provide hospitality in a new country with different customs can be a strain.

'It has been decided that in future when we call for applicants for overseas posts that there must be a discussion with the applicant's wife or husband so that there is a full understanding and appreciation of the various cultural aspects to which that person may have to adapt,' Mr Farmer said.

'I also see such discussions as a way for the AFP to provide support for the families of its L.O.'s,' he added.

**A**FP and Philippine police are developing closer relations to stem the flow of narcotics from the Philippines to Australia and to make life more difficult for Australian criminals living in that country.

As part of his recent overseas trip, Deputy Commissioner (Operations) Roy Farmer visited the Philippines and AFP liaison posts in South East Asia.

He is the most senior Australian police officer to visit the Philippines.

Deputy Commissioner Farmer told 'Platypus' future co-operation would centre on increasing the exchange of

## Family Liaison for L.O.'S



*Mr Farmer (centre) with Philippines Police Chief Gen. De Villa, the Australian Ambassador, Mr John Holloway and AFP Embassy Attache Det. Insp. John Robinson (right).*

information on suspected drug traffickers and Australian criminals based in the Philippines who were involved in illegal activity.

He described such exchanges as a vital part of co-operation between the two

countries, adding that they would help with the effective operation of the Australia-Philippine Extradition Treaty.

The Minister for Justice, Senator Michael Tate, signed the treaty in Manila on March 7.

## Sad Loss

**Colleagues and friends of Detective Sergeant Ronald Leslie Whittick were shocked to learn of his sudden death early on the morning of December 4, last year.**

Ron died from a heart attack at his home in Perth.

He was only 47 and leaves his wife Pat and two sons, Christopher, 18 and Paul, 15.

Ron joined the former Commonwealth Police Force in February 1975 after emigrating from England where he had been a member of the Thames Valley Police for 10 years.

Since joining the AFP Ron had worked exclusively in Western Region and during his almost 12 years there, he developed strong friendships with his colleagues who miss him greatly.

When he first arrived in Perth, Ron served with the General Duties Section at Perth Airport and 12 months later transferred to C.I.B. duties which led him to undertaking the Investigators Course, of which he was Dux, plus the Detective and Commercial Crime Courses.

Ron was promoted to the Rank of Sergeant in 1981.

At the time of his death Ron headed a team of Fraud and General Crime detectives all of whom respected their 'boss' and enjoyed working with this man

whose wit and humour are sadly missed.

In accordance with the wishes of his wife, Detective Sergeant Ron Whittick was accorded a full police funeral at the Church of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Gosnells. Interment took place at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Fremantle.

Approximately 300 mourners attended the Requiem Mass, including almost every member of the A.F.P. in Western Region.

The AFP is grateful to the Western Australian Police Force which supplied a drill sergeant and a piper for the police funeral and the Army, which supplied two buglers.

