

... AND NOW FOR THE HARD PART

by Superintendent Kevin Harley

• This is a transcript of the speech given by Supt Harley at the Graduation Dinner for Courses 1 & 2/88

GRADUATION is the culmination of a period of intensive training, which has been both vigorous and demanding, measuring individual performance, group interaction and compatibility.

Graduation symbolises the start of a new way of life in a chosen vocation. It is a kind of metamorphosis from a cloistered training environment to the real-life situation of police operations.

During the past 13 weeks of basic training a bonding process has developed between each of you. This group affinity is unique to policing and is the envy of other disciplined organisations. The friendships you have made, whilst you have been here at the college, will last a lifetime and will result in reunions being held 30 or even 40 or more years on.

Graduation is an occasion that you will remember and cherish for the rest of your lives.

You have every right to feel proud; walk tall but be ever so humble.

As the Commanding Officer Operations Training Branch I thank you the members of courses 1 of 88 and 2 of 88 for your efforts and dedication to your training. I thank you for the courtesies you have extended to me, Inspector Kerrison and the members of my directional staff. I thank you, the mums and dads, relatives, friends and loved ones, who have been most supportive to these young men and women over the past weeks. Without your love, encouragement and support these people would not have successfully completed their training.

Now, after saying that, I don't want you to knock off and say, "Thank God, that's over, we're finished, we can now relax" because that is not the case. You, like our graduates here today, have only just started, you have only completed your initial or basic training, you still have a long way to go and a most important role to perform.

I am sure that you have all noticed remarkable changes in your own recruit.

Yes, there has been a remarkable change. In the past 13 weeks your sons and daughters have been transformed into an expert on the law, a psychologist,

a strategist, a midwife, a protector of public safety, a ruthless prosecutor of crime and a guardian of civil liberty. Not bad for just 13 weeks — but that is exactly what the general public perceives a police officer to be.

These young men and women leaving here today to serve their master, the Australian public, will need your continued support, love and encouragement to enable them to carry out their sworn duty. The Australian public has the right to question and demand excellence in our performance. However, the public, and we *all* make up the public, has and will continue to criticise the actions and conduct of police.

I regret to say that law enforcement suffers from acute public apathy. I hasten to add that this is not a malaise peculiar to Australia; it is a global trend which is most pervasive and a source of great concern to police officers.

The public use the police for its neurotic attitude towards crime. Janus-like we have always turned two faces towards a policeman. We expect him to be human and yet inhuman. We employ him to administer the law, and yet we ask him to waive it. We resent him when he enforces the law in our own case, yet demand his dismissal when he does not

elsewhere. We offer him bribes, yet denounce his corruption. We expect him to be a member of society, yet not to share its values. We admire violence, even against society itself, but condemn force by the police on our behalf. We tell police that they are entitled to information from the public, yet we ostracize informers. We ask for crime to be eradicated, but only by the use of "sporting" methods.

The policeman is denounced by the public, ridiculed in the movies, berated by the media and at times unsupported by the judicial system. He is often shunned by the respectables, hated by the criminals, deceived by everyone and kicked around like a football. He is exposed to countless temptations and dangers, condemned when he enforces the law and dismissed when he doesn't. He is supposed to possess the qualifications of a soldier, doctor, lawyer, diplomat and university professor.

The efforts exerted and the results achieved by policemen and policewomen, past and present, has never

continued ▶

*Graduation over, the hard work begins.
(Picture SIC W. McConaghy)*



failed to amaze me. During my service I have seen qualities of loyalty, integrity, commitment, dedication, courage and selflessness displayed to a high degree, at all levels. I have seen the burdens imposed upon police families. I have seen men and women who have wrecked their health, altered their lives, and given their lives, in their determination to get the job done.

I have often wondered what manner of people policemen and policewomen are. What driving force makes them keep on in the face of such adversity? I believe the answer lies in the concept of service to the community.

Experience has taught me that everything in life is relative. Police will always have an ambivalent relationship with the job, with the legal system and with the government of the day. But they will always get the job done when it matters. Under-empowered and over-regulated though we may be, police never fail to measure up in times of disaster, emergency or crisis in providing the and of service the community expects.

Police will always regard community acceptance as the ultimate measure of success. They know that they will never solve the problems of the world, but they will keep on trying. In the process, they will take some of the pain out of the life for some people, some of the time. For others, they will succeed in improving the quality of life from time to time.

You the mums and dads and loved ones have a vital part to play in the police organisation. You will share the anger, fear, frustration and apprehension that each of these young men and women will experience in their police careers. And it is you who will provide the love, counsel, support and encouragement to these young men and women so that they can get on with their chosen career in serving that most unsympathetic and demanding master.

I am confident that these young men and women of courses 1 of 88 and 2 of 88 will be fine police officers and serve the Australian Federal Police and the Australian community proudly.

There are many people to whom special tribute is warranted for the success of these two recruit training courses. I am most fortunate to have enthusiastic, dedicated and professional police officers attached to my command, all of whom performed to a most high standard in the conduct of these courses. I would be remiss, however, not to pay special tribute to the course co-ordinators, Senior Constable Wendy Norris and Senior Constable Bill Rawlinson. Thank you for a job well done.

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COMMISSIONER'S FIRST PARADE

"The parade ground today is the springboard for your career; it will be a very exciting career," Commissioner Peter McAulay told graduating recruits at the AFP Training College at Weston in Canberra on May 5.

It was Commissioner McAulay's first passing out parade since joining the AFP.

"I know the training has been tough. The training is tough because the job is tough," he told the 42 recruits of Courses 3 and 4 of 1988 gathered in brilliant sunshine.

"The job is demanding physically, intellectually and morally. That is on the debit side of the ledger. On the credit side, you are about to experience the fantastic camaraderie that exists in all law enforcement agencies.

"You are going to experience a great esprit de corps; an esprit de corps which goes hand-in-hand with serving in the Australian Federal Police.

"That sort of esprit de corps can carry us through every adversity; we can meet and solve every problem if we work together."

Commissioner McAulay drew on a cinematic allusion to reinforce the point: "Some time ago there was a very popular science fiction film. The greeting in that was 'the Force be with you'. The 'Force' is with you the Australian Federal Police Force.

"May God be with you!"

The graduating courses contained 28 men and 14 women. They have been posted to Sydney in Eastern Region, Melbourne in Southern Region and the ACT.

Commissioner McAulay also presented a Certificate of Commendation to the Detective Training School for its significant contribution to the development of the investigative capability of the AFP. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the school by Detective Senior Sergeant Geoffrey Lanham.

Recruits bring many talents to the AFP but the dux of training course 3 of 88, Constable Leanne Giraud, must have one of the most unusual combinations.



Commissioner McAulay inspects the graduating classes. (Picture by Ron Townsend)

Leanne, 20, is a black belt instructor in the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do and one of her other hobbies is cocktail mixing!

"I started Tang Soo Do, which is a form of karate, at the age of 12 and got my black belt when I was 16," she said.

"I had a job mixing cocktails at the Gove Resort Hotel in the Northern Territory and I've kept it up since then, but I only like mixing them, not drinking them!" she said.

And slinging the odd gin has not affected Leanne's mental ability. She scored 2,005 marks out of a possible 2,300. Leanne also won the law theory award and the constant endeavour award for PT.

Leanne comes from Gove, or Nhulunbuy as it is also known.

"I had always wanted to be involved in police work since I was small," she said.

"I was considering joining the Northern Territory Police or the Military Police when my brother-in-law, who's in the Royal Australian Air Force, rang me from Melbourne about a circular he'd seen about the AFP.

"I've always liked to travel and the AFP has that bonus so I applied.

"I had been a commercial copy writer and graphic designer in television in Darwin for 18 months but the attraction wasn't there and I didn't enjoy the work any more.

"In the AFP I can look forward to a career of 35 years. I'm particularly interested in surveillance or anti-drugs work but I'm looking for experience in everything, after all, experience means knowledge.

"I'd also like to do some academic studies in psychology and business management and maybe some law."

Leanne has been posted to Southern Region.

The dux of training course 4 of 88 was Constable John Williams-Mozley, 37, who has been posted to Eastern Region.