

FIRST DUX FOR 1988



Constable Kathleen Abrahams

"I want to be a detective," was Kathleen Abrahams' succinct response when asked what attracted her to the AFP.

And Kathleen, 26, of Carlingford in Sydney's west, seems likely to realise her ambition. She topped the first two graduation classes of 1988. "There are more opportunities to become a detective in the AFP than there are in the New South Wales Police and the AFP has a reputation as a new and honest force," she said.

A member of Recruit Training Course 1/88, Kathleen scored 2,091 points out of a possible total of 2,500. She also won the practical law theory award.

Formerly a radiographer in Sydney for nine years, Kathleen said she thought hard for about 12 months before deciding to change from her established career to the AFP.

"My old job was not a challenge any more; I needed a bit more excitement and I wanted to get ahead," she said.

"I was in a bit of a rut and I looked for a career change where I would learn

something new and also have promotion prospects."

The final decision to join the AFP came through a family connection — of a sort.

"I spoke to some people in the job in New South Wales who were enthusiastic and to some friends in the State police force there.

"The person who eventually won me over was a former secretary who had been employed by my father before joining the AFP.

"We spoke on the phone for more than an hour and she convinced me how good the AFP was."

Kathleen said the initial induction had done nothing to change her initial impressions of the AFP.

"The instructors were good. I liked the way there were police teaching police," she said.

"They encouraged us a lot and there was no discrimination against women."

Kathleen said she was very pleased that as well as her family, her former

employer, Doctor K.C. Faulder, a Sydney radiologist, and his wife had been able to come to Canberra for the parade.

Kathleen has been posted to Sydney and she will be doing the investigator's course at the end of the year.

"Dealing with people is very important to me. Given my background in radiography, forensic work could be interesting but I want to experience as many fields of police work as possible. I'm waiting to experience the work before I pick any speciality — but being a detective is my ambition!"

YOUTH CLUBS CARE FOR KIDS

The ACT Life Education Centre Appeal received a substantial boost recently when the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs Hazel Hawke, was presented with a cheque for \$2,000 at a gathering at City Police Station in Canberra.

Mrs Hawke is patron of the Life Education Centres. The money was raised by Canberra Police and Citizens Youth Clubs, mostly as proceeds from the popular blue light discos which are held regularly in the ACT.

Organisers of the appeal hope to raise \$140,000 as their contribution to a target of \$330,000 to establish a Life Education Centre in Canberra. Commonwealth assistance is being sought to provide the balance of \$190,000.

Life Education Centres have been set up in every Australian State on the initiative of the Rev. Ted Noffs to teach young people about the composition and function of their bodies and the effects drugs have on them.



A cheque for \$2000 raised by the Canberra Police and Citizens Youth Clubs for an ACT Life Education Centre was presented to Mrs Hazel Hawke by Assistant Commissioner Val McConaghy. (Picture by Sen. Const. Wayne McConaghy)

The idea also has been adopted in the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

Major sponsors of the blue light discos in Canberra, Coca Cola, Kambrook and

Canon Copiers, also were presented with plaques at the ceremony in appreciation of their support.