

when he joined the public service side of the ACT Police and coaches the AFP men's A1 team in the ACT competition.

"I played first grade Australian Rules until 1981 with the Eastlake Football Club in Canberra," he said. "The club used to be known as the 'cops and Robbies' because members of the Robbie

family made up a large part of the team and police most of the rest.

"An ACT Police Commissioner, Mr Len Powley, was an Eastlake supporter and Australian Rules players who joined the ACT police were 'encouraged' to play for the club. AFP officers who followed his advice include Deputy Commissioner

(Administration) John Johnson, Assistant Commissioner (Eastern Region) Ian Broomby and Chief Inspector (Administration) Peter Curtis. All in all, Eastlake has benefited, over the years, from the expertise of some of the AFP's top brass!"



# WORKING TOGETHER

**Mr Roger O'Donnell (OIC Information Data Services Unit) has a recipe for police/public servant co-operation.**

"People involved in law enforcement tend to be good judges of character and your credibility as a person becomes paramount," he said. "The way you present yourself will hold you in tremendous stead.

"And in my area we are dealing with multi-million dollar concerns that could have some one's life on the end of them when computer use is applied at the 'sharp end' of crime fighting. Public servants must remember that they remain in a support or consultancy role".

Roger came to the AFP in 1985 as a management consultant after 20 years in the Royal Australian Navy.

"My military background helped a lot in applying the co-operative spirit necessary for my type of work which currently involves helping the AFP install some of the most modern computer systems in the world," he said. (This work was featured in 'Platypus' 21, April 1988).

"There is an esprit de corps in the AFP that any military man will recognise and police and military officers have a similar managerial upbringing and way of thinking.

"If you can't recognise that and move with it, what you are trying to do won't work. Military and police strategic planning methods are similar and there can

be a degree of respect for similar experience.

Roger said his team at the Weston computer centre in Canberra demonstrated the benefits of police/public servant co-operation. The team consists of Detective Sergeant Tom Hanlon, Station Sergeant John Holroyd, Senior Constable Bob Richardson, Mike Humphrey, a personal computer expert, and Tania Julian.

"The team is certainly a good mix," Roger said. "Tom Hanlon's work in fraud and general crime has given me a feel for investigations work and court work; Bob Richardson has brought expertise from the crime collation/modus operandi area and John Holroyd has great breadth of experience — much of it involving investigations in the Northern Territory. Access to all that experience has told me that the AFP's latest computer advances will work."

The AFP has one of the largest levels of computer use of any police force in the world and the current initiatives will result in the most comprehensive police systems development ever undertaken in Australia.

Projects involving the AFP Xerox Intelligence System (AXIS) and the Australian Modified Version of HOLMES — a British designed system for handling major inquiries — are progressing well.



*Mr Roger O'Donnell*

"AXIS is operational with 25 work stations in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra and we are measuring its cost effectiveness," Roger said.

"HOLMES will be up and running in Sydney early in 1989 in Fraud and General Crime and shortly afterwards in Drug Operations in Melbourne.

"HOLMES will become a law enforcement standard in Australia. State police forces, insurance companies and private investigation agencies are all looking at our work with great interest."

Roger is impressed with the way the AFP has taken to computers.

"When I joined the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (BCI) in 1985 I was not aware of any police with expertise in computer systems but that has changed dramatically," he said. "I am coming across officers now with experience not only in personal computers but who are also able to master major intelligence systems. Officers who a short time ago had every little computer knowledge are now training others — and doing it well.

"If that is thought to be an incredible learning curve, bear in mind that the future holds more because police use of computers will expand into areas we cannot conceive of at this time.

"I'm delighted in the response of the AFP to computer technology," he said.

