

FORTY THOUSAND REASONS



Const Bruce Giles

When a man gives up a \$40,000 a year job to become an AFP recruit, his reasons are worth listening to.

"I have strong feelings about justice and those who offend . . . the rapists and murderers," Constable Bruce Giles said.

"I am concerned about crime against the community — everything else is secondary. It might sound corny, but put it down to social conscience."

Not so corny when Constable Giles' previous job is borne in mind. He was an electronic systems tradesman in the oil industry in Western Australia.

"I was on easy street but I have another 40 years of work in me yet. I had been out in ordinary jobs in the community and they weren't enough.

"I decided to return to my original ambition to become a police officer. I come from Mackay and had been accepted for the Queensland Police when I was 16 but when I looked around again I thought the AFP appeared to be an elite force and the interstate travel was a plus," he said.

Constable Giles, 25, joined the AFP on May 16, 1988 and passed out as dux of Recruit Training Course 7/88. He was also awarded the prize for excellence in theory law.

Constable Giles, who is married with a two-year-old son, has been posted to the ACT Region. "I want to get into general duties and take it from there," he said. "I want to leave my options open, but definitely no electronics in the short term!"



AFP: A NEW DIRECTION

A former Army Special Air Service trooper has found a new direction in the AFP.

"I can see the results of my work whereas before I found it frustrating that I was training for a goal that never really eventuated," Constable David Bachi said.

Constable Bachi passed out as dux of Recruit Training Course 8/88.

He has been posted to Melbourne in Southern Region.

Constable Bachi, who grew up in Tamworth, New South Wales, was in the Army for seven years. His AFP instructors said he achieved excellent results in all aspects of the training programme. As well as achieving dux, he took out awards for excellence in firearms, physical training and the 2.4 kilometre timed run.



Const. David Bachi

"One of the best parts of the training for me was the interaction with different types of people," he said.

"It's a little early to say whether I have any particular areas of police work in mind for my future career because I'm interested in all of them, but I do have a leaning towards witness security and surveillance at this stage."



TOP BIKER



1st. Const. Kenton Turner

The AFP's Motorcyclist of the Year's favourite traffic story doesn't have anything to do with motorcycles.

"I was on random breath testing once in Canberra when we pulled over a car with 14 guys in it," First Constable Kenton Turner said.

"There were blokes hanging out everywhere and when we told everybody not wearing a seat belt to get out we had nine blokes on the gutter!

"They had all been out after a football game and the 'excess baggage' was told to get a cab home".

Not only is Kenton's favourite traffic story of the four-wheeled variety but he doesn't own a motorcycle. "At the

moment, I'm paying off a house and I'm a bit short of funds," he said. "Before doing a five week intensive police motorcycle course in January I hadn't ridden for a couple of years. I would like to get a bike for recreation when funds permit but at the moment I'm tied up with sport and I play a lot of volleyball."

Kenton joined the AFP in January, 1984, and after recruit training he was deployed to the ACT Region. He has worked in general duties, the communications unit and the search and rescue squad.

Getting through the five week intensive police motorcycle course wasn't easy. "Of the 25 applicants only nine or 10 got through the interviews," he said. "Six eventually started the course but there were only two of us left at the end of it. It is a very demanding course — and that is apart from the fact that the course was held in January in 38 degree heat for days at a time."

Kenton has nothing but praise for the AFP's BMW bikes. "They are very smooth and when you ride something else you certainly notice the difference," he said.

And how does he find Canberra's motorists? "Basically, they are reasonably well behaved but they're not patient because they're not used to sitting in traffic jams. Overall, Canberra's drivers are very spoilt because of the city's excellent roads — and a lot of them abuse that fact by speeding to get to work and home."

