

believe I had travelled all the way from 'down under' to compete in their race."

His visit proved worthwhile. He was awarded a gold medal in his category in the giant slalom and the following day, a silver for the slalom. But then the temperature dropped to minus 26deg. overnight and the rest of the competition was abandoned.

He headed for the International Police Winter Games at Lake Tahoe, California, where he managed only a 4th place medal.

"This was the fastest course I had done, with many competitors travelling warp factor 6 down an icy slope, taking nearly 2 minutes to finish," he said. "Two minutes feels like two hours under those conditions and by the time you finish your legs have turned to jelly. It was an exciting competition."

The next stop on the police ski circuit was Mammoth Mountain, California, for the Police-Fire winter olympics. However, officials would not let him race because he was not a California Police officer.

Mike flew on to Colorado where he competed in the Colorado State Police race. Although he was allowed to take part, he wasn't permitted to take medals from local competitors.

The following week was to be the biggest and best for Mike. It was the 1989 Saab National Peace Officers ski race, with police from all walks of life in the US and Canada competing.



Mike Doroshenko ready for the 1989 National Police Officers ski race.

The first day of competition he was placed 51st out of 360 racers in the seed race. This qualified him for the slalom race, an international world cup standard event.

"Most of the racers crashed and burned, not being given a second run because of the official rules," he said. "The main aim is to finish and not worry about times, so consistency won me a gold medal."

He celebrated that night.

"The next day's race was an afternoon one and by the time I was in the starting gate for the giant slalom

I was ready," he said. "Winning second place by only 1/100th of a second wasn't too bad, considering."

Mike said that spring skiing in Colorado was unsurpassed anywhere in the world but that night it snowed. A metre of snow fell overnight and the competition was cancelled.

"It was a unique experience to ski in waist-deep powder," he said.

Mike left the US with many contacts, great memories and a hole in his bank balance. But it was worth every cent, he says. •

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FLAIR

It has been claimed the happiest people in the world are those who have been able to convert a hobby to their day-to-day professional activity.

One such example is Constable Michael Dunn (Crime Scene Unit, Southern Region) who recently took out second prize in the General Category of the 14th Exhibition of Police Photography of Australasia and the South-West Pacific Region in Melbourne. It was the first time he had entered the Exhibition.

Michael first displayed an interest in photography during his school days and after completing his education, he served with the Royal Australian Navy as a photographer. Since joining the Federal Police in April, 1986, he has been heavily involved with photography in the Crime Scene Unit.

His prize-winning photograph 'Bar room corner' was displayed for public viewing with other prizewinners and entries in the chambers of a central Melbourne bank last month.



Michael Dunn's "Bar room corner".