

POLICE HISTORY MUSEUM

THE AFP Police History Museum is slowly taking form at Weston College in Canberra. Due to open in October this year to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the formation of the AFP, the museum will occupy an area formerly used for a library and for typing.

THE museum will feature the history of the AFP and its predecessors — the first Commonwealth Police (1918-19), the Commonwealth Investigation Service (1946-60), the Commonwealth Police (ACT) (1927-57), the ACT Police (1959-79), the Commonwealth Police (1960-79) and the Federal Narcotics Bureau (1970-79).

The collection includes uniforms, batons, identity cards, a Ford car, two motorcycles, medals, photographs and some documents.

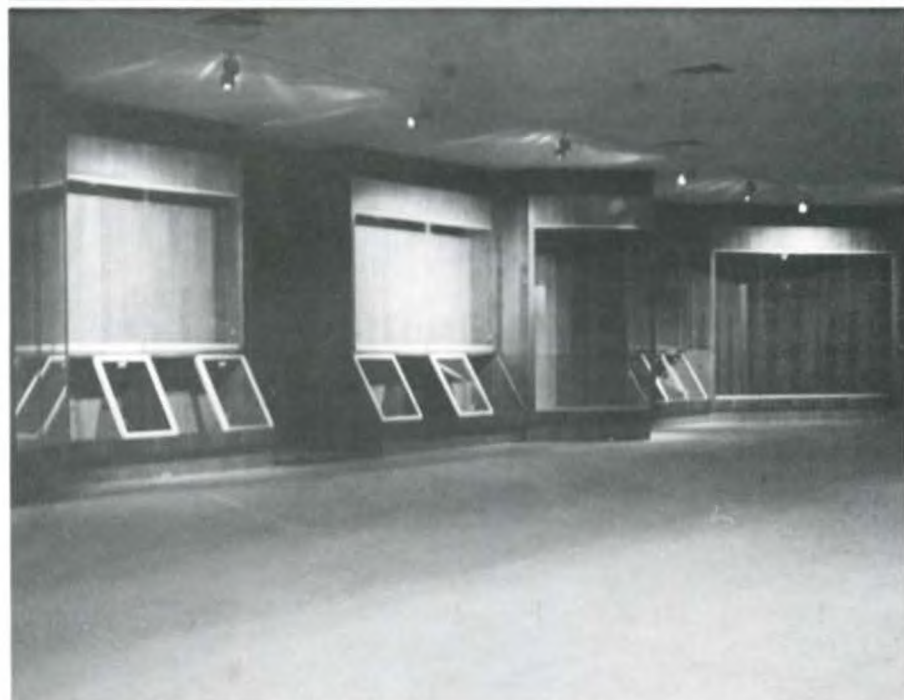
Someone will be on duty daily, including weekends, to answer visitors' questions. Many interstate police are expected to visit.

The museum project began in 1983 under former Inspector John Friend of the Logistic Services Branch. Constable Cheryl Richardson has been working on the project for two years, tracking down and speaking with former police who are the best source of memorabilia.

"I am still missing some items which I hope *Platypus* readers may know of," Cheryl said. "In particular we'd like uniforms, navy-coloured jodhpurs, a 1927-45 high collar style tunic and old batons from the same period, a black motorcycle helmet, Peace Officer Guard items of uniform and any items relating to the Commonwealth Investigation Branch, the Commonwealth Investigation Service and the Federal Narcotics Bureau."

Cheryl finds her job interesting and challenging as well as frustrating when she can't get hold of items. "Nearly every police force is setting up its own museum," she said. "We get a lot of enquiries from interstate police and collectors, especially those interested in badges. Collectors are the hardest to deal with because they won't part with anything."

"If we're to have a good museum we'll need everything represented. It's a shame interesting items are sitting around in garages and drawers where no-one will ever see them."



Progress on the display areas at the museum.

Cheryl, a primary school teacher in New South Wales and New Zealand before joining the AFP in 1984, worked at Woden, Operations and Safety Education before joining the museum project in 1987. She has devised a cataloging system for all exhibits. She would like to contact the families of William Fellowes, Alfred Davies, Edwin Bailey, Charles Priestly and Edward Bresnan, who were members of the 1927 force in Canberra.

Anyone with any information about them or any items of interest can contact Constable Cheryl Richardson on (062) 757637.

WANTED

Vacancies currently exist on the museum committee for people with suitable skills to contribute to the development of the AFP History Museum. Interested applicants should outline their skills in writing and forward applications to:

**Superintendent Max Bradley,
Logistic Services
AFP Headquarters**